Hafa Adai!

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Public urged to reduce mosquito population, prevent mosquito-borne disease. PAGE 2

Over 20 take part in AMBER Alert Assessment Workshop. PAGE 3

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Tinian-based Star Marianas Air, Inc. is the CNMI's sole inter-island carrier.

DUE TO CPA FEES

SMA may cease operations

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The CNMI's sole inter-island air service, Star Marianas Air Inc., may cease operations unless CNMI leaders intervene in its long-ongoing battle with the Commonwealth Ports Authority over its fee structure.

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Marianas legislators work on establishing Marianas Visa Program

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Propst

Legislators of the Marianas have banded together to pass a resolution to repeal the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker (CW1) program and establish the Marianas Visa Program to cater to the Marianas' workforce needs.

During the Mariana Islands Legislature Association conference over two weeks ago, lawmakers from the CNMI and Guam passed MILA resolution No. 05-GA-2 which was introduced by floor leader Rep. Edwin Propst (D-Saipan), Sen. Jesse A. Lujan (R-Guam), and a number of other Guam and CNMI legislators.

The resolution essentially urgently requests the U.S. Congress to repeal the CW1 program and approve a non-immigrant worker visa program, named the "Marianas Visa Program" that is tailored to meet the unique and urgent needs of

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Irene Holl, the national committeewoman and CNMI chairwoman for the Republican National Convention delegation, and delegates Vinnie Sablan and Rocco Valentino, on behalf of NMI's Republican Party, place all nine votes to nominate Donald J. Trump for Republican candidate for U.S. president during the Republican National Convention last week in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

'A new Trump and a new Republican Party'

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

With President Joe Biden stepping down from the race for the Oval Office and current Vice President Kamala Harris assuming the mantle for the Democratic Party, the NMI Republican Party stands more united with their nomination of former president Donald J. Trump.

This, according to Irene Holl, the national committeewoman and CNMI chairwoman of the Republican National Convention delegation.

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Villanueva bench trial to begin Nov. 6

CHRYSTAL MARINO
Shayne Blanco Villanueva flashes the V sign as he exits his July 8 hearing at the Superior Court in Susupe in this file photo.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

The Superior Court granted the prosecution's request to alter the trial date of Shayne Blanco Villanueva during a motion hearing yesterday with Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja resetting the trial's start to Nov. 6, 2024.

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LIFE & STYLE
Eminem's latest album, "The Death of Slim Shady (Coup de Grâce)," has debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200, unseating Taylor Swift's "The Tortured Poets Department" after 12 weeks.
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Local

CELEBRATING 23 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Bayani Association installs new officers at anniversary event

The Bayani Association marked a momentous occasion last Saturday, July 20, as it celebrated its 23rd anniversary and installed a new slate of officers at a special event held at Pepoy's Restaurant. The evening was filled with jubilation and camaraderie as members and guests gathered to honor the organization's rich history and look ahead to a promising future.

At the helm of the Bayani Association's new leadership is president Yolanda Acode de Ramos who brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to serving the community. Assisting her in steering the organization toward its goals are newly elected vice president Samuel B. Justo, secretary Leonila C. Mendoza, assistant secretary Elizabeth Gonzales, treasurer Mildred M. Pabilando, assistant treasurer Shelfa Gaviola, auditor Raul Dolotina, public information officer Edmin A. Elayda, and safety officers Ronald De Ramos, Teogenes Y. Mendoza, and Janrey M. Pabilando whose dedication and passion for the association are sure to inspire all those involved.

BAYANI ASSOCIATION

Newly inducted officers of Bayani Association pose with United Filipino Organization president Birhen Martinez for a group photo. From left, safety officers Janrey Pabilando, Ronald de Ramos, and Teogenes Mendoza, vice president Samuel Justo, president Yolanda de Ramos, Martinez, assistant treasurer Shelf Gaviola, treasurer Mildred Pabilando, assistant secretary Elizabeth Gonzales, secretary Leonila Mendoza, auditor Raul Dolotina, and public information officer Edmin Elayda.

The event was a testament to Bayani Association's enduring legacy of service and dedication to uplifting the community. Members and supporters alike came together to celebrate the organization's achievements over the past 23 years and reaffirm their commitment to positively impacting society.

"We are thrilled to embark on this new chapter in the Bayani Association's journey," remarked de Ramos. "With the support of our members and the community, we are confident that we can continue to make a difference and create a more inclusive and vibrant environment for all."

As the Bayani Association looks toward the future with optimism and enthusiasm, it invites all stakeholders to join hands in furthering its mission of promoting unity, service, and empowerment within the community.

"Together, we can build a brighter tomorrow for all," it said.

The Bayani Association extends its heartfelt gratitude to all those who have supported and contributed to its success over the years. Through the collective efforts of its members, sponsors, and partners, the association has been able to thrive and make a meaningful impact on the lives of those it serves.

Special thanks are extended to Ernie Molina for his role as the pageant director and choreographer, and for his invaluable contributions to the Bayani Association. Additionally, the association expresses its deepest appreciation to the dedicated couple whose unwavering commitment has greatly benefited the organization. In recognition of their outstanding service, the Bayani Association presented a plaque of recognition to outgoing president Annamae Adaza-Mayuga and Mario Mayuga for their exceptional commitment and support to the organization.

As its celebrates 23 years of excellence, Bayani Association is poised to continue its legacy of service and community engagement, guided by a passionate new leadership team and a shared commitment to making a difference.

In exciting news, the Bayani Association is thrilled to announce that "Gandang Pinay Part 2" will be coming soon in February 2025. Stay tuned for more details on this highly anticipated event that promises to showcase the beauty, talent, and spirit of the Filipina.

For more information about the Bayani Association and its upcoming initiatives, contact de Ramos at (670) 484-7836 and Mendoza at (670) 287-7563.

Public urged to reduce mosquito population and prevent mosquito-borne disease

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Environmental Health and Disease Prevention encourages the community to take steps to help reduce the local mosquito population and prevent mosquito-borne disease, such as dengue especially during the rainy season. Dengue is a viral disease mainly spread to people by the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito.

According to the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, dengue is a common disease globally with outbreaks reported in regions such as the Caribbean, Central and South Americas, Southeast Asia, and Pacific Islands.

The best way to prevent spread dengue is to avoid mosquito bites.

To prevent mosquito bites, it is recommended to wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing during outdoor activities as mosquitos are attracted to dark colors. When practical, wear long-sleeves and pants when going outdoors. When using mosquito repellent, proper application of mosquito repellents that contain 20% to 30% DEET as the active ingredient on exposed skin and clothing also reduces the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes.

The community is urged to take preventative measures like eliminating mosquito breeding sites. You can do this by:

- Cleaning up of all debris, especially those that can hold water.
- Disposing loose tires.
- Cleaning pet water dishes regularly.
- Cleaning, emptying, and properly screening or covering containers used to store water.
- Clearing roof gutters of debris.
- Properly disposing of all bottles, cans, buckets, and other containers that can collect water.
- Plugging tree holes.
- Repairing leaky outdoor faucets so not to create standing water.
- Changing the water frequently in flower vases and other containers that routinely contain water, including pet dishes.

CHCC-EHDP conducts routine surveillance of adult mosquito population to identify disease carrying species, track mosquito abundance and determine needs for intervention. CHCC-EHDP also responds to mosquito complaints related to excessive breeding sites from improper waste disposal.

For more information about dengue, visit https://www.cdc.gov/dengue/about/index.html. To contact the EHDP office, call 670-236-22022/27/28 or email john.tagabuel@chcc.health. ***(PR)***

Over 20 take part in AMBER Alert Assessment Workshop

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

An Amber Alert Needs Assessment Workshop was held yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan led by National Criminal Justice Training Center AMBER Alert administrator Janelle Rasmussen.

Rasmussen was joined by three other AMBER Alert team members in the training on Saipan that saw over 20 attendees from various local and federal law enforcement agencies. The U.S. Department of Justice funded Rasmussen and company's trip to the CNMI as part of their mandate to provide training and technical assistance to states, the territories, and the tribes for responding to missing abducted children's cases.

"Yesterday (Monday) we began really with an overview of the program, the training, and the work that we do with AMBER Alert, and then we had some discussion about how the technology works, and now we've moved into a portion of the discussion, where we're listening and learning from the locals what works here on Saipan and what doesn't work. So [we'll know] what tools and technology resources and alerting systems we can bring to Saipan that would be beneficial in these types of cases," said Rasmussen.

She added that they're on Saipan through a Defense Act initiative, which requires that AMBER Alert assistance and training be provided to all U.S. territories.

"We're here on Saipan this week to meet with local and federal officials to talk about what is needed here to protect children when a child goes missing on Saipan. What kind of training needs to occur so that law enforcement is prepared to respond so that the public has education and awareness of how they can help and what technology and resources are needed to make this program is successful in the CNMI," said Rasmusen.

According to Department of Public Safety Commissioner Anthony Macaranas the AMBER Alert team came here to make an assessment and to see if promoting AMBER Alert in the CNMI will be feasible.

"One of our biggest challenges here in the CNMI is our geographic area because we're far away from the United States mainland. So, the folks came down here to kind of try to see where we're going to be with this kind of program."

He said he's very supportive of the AMBER Alert program as it will be a game-changer for the CNMI.

"It's a great tool, especially when children are missing, abducted, or kidnapped. This system would link us to other law enforcement agencies. It's in the Pacific and the system helps locate these missing children that are reported. This tool would also help enhance our relationship with other law enforcement because of this relationship we're able to continue our work to progressively move forward."

AMBER Alert began in 1996 when Dallas-Fort Worth broadcasters teamed with local police to develop an early warning system to find abducted children. AMBER stands for America's Missing Broadcast Emergency Response and was created as a legacy to 9-year-old Amber Hagerman, who was kidnapped while riding her bicycle in Arlington, Texas, and then brutally murdered. Other states and communities soon set up their own AMBER plans as the idea was adopted across the nation.

The AMBER Alert program has been successful in the United States as more than 1,000 children have been found, according to Rasmussen.

"We do have over one thousand children that have returned home because an AMBER Alert was activated. We know that this program is successful, and so we know that if we're able to stand up

See AMBER on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Local and federal officials pose with the AMBER Alert team, seated from left, Jesi Leon Baron, Janelle Rasmussen, and Byron Fasset last Monday during the first day of AMBER Alert Assessment Workshop at the Napu Room of Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Located at the Armatech Building in Chalan Kanoa across the intersection leading to the U.S. Post Office. For reservations or for more information, call 234-8894, 287-8895 and 488-8899.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Board of Directors

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, July 25, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held in the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered, and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call
   C. Reading of Notice Calling Special Meeting
   D. Adoption of Agenda
II. Update on the Chief Financial Officer Position
III. Personnel Matters
IV. FY2022 Financial Audit Report
V. Contractor selection pursuant to § 50-50-220 of CUC's Procurement Regulations regarding Request for Proposal Nos., CUC-RFP-24-013 and CUC-RFP-24-014
VI. Public Comments*
VII. Executive Session**
VIII. Announcement
IX. Adjournment

/s/
JANICE A. TENORIO
Chairwoman

* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.
** All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, to consult with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (HIT)

RFP24-CHCC/HIT-023

INSTALLATION OF UNINTERRUPTIBLE POWER SUPPLIES AND TRANSFORMERS INTO CHCC INTERMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION FRAMES SITES

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, NMIAC Subchapter 140-80.1-205(1), CHCC hereby seeks the services of qualified Contractor to provide services to the Health Information Technology (HIT) Unit thru **RFP24-CHCC/HIT-023.**

The Request for Proposals will be available on July 24th, 2024 online at www.chcc.health, navigate to the RFP tab on the left navigation bar, click on the URL for this **RFP24-CHCC/HIT-023.**

A mandatory on-site assessment will be held on **July 26th, 2024 at 9:00AM** at the CHCC Conference Room 4, located right across Gift Shop. The Statement of Confidentiality will be collected prior to the actual on-site assessment.

Contractors shall submit proposals and all supporting documents to Corazon P. Ada, Director, CHCC Division of Procurement and Supply Office located at the Main Administrative Building or via email at procurement@chcc.health no later than: **1000hrs (10:00 am) Chamorro Standard Time on August 5th, 2024.**

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

CHARITY R. HODSON (FO487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK
Saipan, MP 96950 Telephone: (670) 234-1615
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749 charity@chodson-law.com

Attorney for Petitioner Jesse Tenorio

IN THE SUPERIOR COURTFOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE ESTATE OF AMPARO DELEON GUERRERO TENORIO,	] Civil Action] No. 24-0159-CV]
Deceased.	] **NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**] Date: Thurs, August 15, 2024] Time: 10:00am] Judge: Judge Joseph] N. Camacho]

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE AMPARO DELEON GUERRERO TENORIO, OR HER ESTATE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Jesse Tenorio** has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Amparo Deleon Guerrero Tenorio, the deceased. The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or her Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be baited. A copy of your claim should also be sent to the attorney for Petitioner, **CHARITY R. HODSON, Attorney at Law,** whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950.

Dated this 17th day of July, 2024.

/s/_____
Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

DESIGN/BUILD FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A VEHICULAR RAMP ROTA WEST HARBOR COMMERCIAL MARINA, ROTA, CNMI
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-009-24

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of this Request for Proposals (the "RFP") and other contract provisions, for awarding a Design/Build Vehicular Ramp construction project at the Rota West Harbor Commercial Marina, Rota, CNMI. The Design/Build RFP Package and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning ***June 21, 2024,*** upon payment of $200.00 in cash, cashier's check or certified check to the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport.

Proposals will be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport no later than ***2:00 P.M. CHST, July 24, 2024.*** Proposals received after the date/time indicated above will not be opened and will be returned to the Proposer.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ***ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount.*** Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

_____ Date: _____
FREDERICK PANGELINAN
Acting Executive Director

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SMA

From page 1

In a letter issued by SMA board chair Robert Christian to members of the CNMI leadership yesterday, SMA intends to terminate its scheduled air service in the CNMI by Oct. 15, 2024 should nothing be done about CPA's current fee structure (or means of collecting fees).

The letter was sent out to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan, and Rota Mayor Aubry M. Hocog. In addition, the letter has since circulated around social media.

"Star Marianas Air, Inc. hereby provides notice of its intent to terminate all scheduled air service to/from the airports in Saipan (PGSN), Tinian (PGWT), and Rota (PGRO), effective Oct. 15, 2024, if a resolution to the current fee setting dispute with the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) cannot be found. This difficult decision is driven primarily by the unsustainable airport fee structure imposed by the CPA, which renders continued service economically unviable," he said.

Ultimately, Christian said he is urging the CNMI leadership to engage with the CPA and facilitate a dialogue to establish a transparent, equitable, and sustainable fee structure that ensures the continuation of vital air service to the community.

"We believe that immediate intervention is necessary to address this issue and ensure that our services can continue without disruption. We are prepared to work collaboratively to find a resolution that benefits all parties involved. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter," he said.

Saipan Tribune reached out to CPA and in a statement from CPA board vice chair Antonio Cabrera, he said CPA is not asking for a lump-sum payment from SMA, just that SMA make payments.

"We are ready and willing to talk," said Cabrera.

Some of the concerns Christian detailed in his letter were non-compensatory fees, disproportionate financial burden, unpredictability and lack of control, and impact on essential air service.

Addressing its concern regarding non-compensatory fees, Christian said CPA's current fee methodology fails to adhere to the fundamental principle of compensatory fees.

"The broad definition of 'Maintenance and Operation' (M&O) expenses, lack of detailed cost allocation, and ambiguous treatment of common use areas result in fees that do not accurately reflect our actual usage of airport facilities and services," he said

As for concerns regarding disproportionate financial burden, Christian explains that as the sole airline operating at Tinian and Rota, SMA is disproportionately burdened by the airport's costs.

"The pricing structure, designed for multiple airlines with varying sizes, is inequitable in our situation. Furthermore, the lack of transparency in cost allocation raises concerns about cross-subsidization, where we may be paying for services primarily benefiting larger airlines that are not currently operating at the airport. This is particularly evident in the inclusion of Airport Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting fees at airports where we operate aircraft that do not require such services, effectively subsidizing ARFF costs for marketing purposes or for other airports like Saipan, where larger aircraft necessitate these services," he said.

Christian also notes in his letter CPA's alleged unpredictability and lack of control.

"The CPA's authority to make mid-year adjustments and conduct year-end true-ups, without clear criteria or airline input, creates financial uncertainty for our operations. The lack of transparency in these processes further exacerbates our concerns about the fairness and reasonableness of the fees," he said.

Lastly, Christian states CPA's fee structure impacts on essential air service.

"Both Tinian and Rota airports serve communities that rely on our air service for essential transportation. The current fee structure jeopardizes our ability to continue providing this vital service, potentially isolating the community and hindering economic development," he said.

Although it's a tough decision, Christian said SMA remains steadfast in its commitment to providing safe and reliable air service to the airports in the CNMI.

"We are not seeking subsidies. However, the current fee structure, which is both opaque and unpredictable due to decisions made by the local government, creates unacceptable risks that jeopardize our ability to operate sustainably. This arbitrary and capricious fee structure is a direct result of CPA's actions and decisions," he said.

AMBER

From page 3

the AMBER Alert program here in the CNMI, that we will be able to find missing children."

Rasmussen and her team's trip to Saipan is just the beginning, as they will be back to conduct more assessments and will provide a report to the Government Accountability Office. GAO in turn will submit a report to Congress.

"To let Congress know about what is working, what has been done, and what the needs are going forward to support this work in the territories, and to make sure the AMBER Alert programs exist here," said Rasmussen.

While Macaranas said the program is not free, it's definitely worth it considering the CNMI hopefully won't have a repeat of the case of the missing Luhk sisters.

Maleina and Faloma Q. Luhk mysteriously disappeared while waiting for a school bus near their residence in As Teo in May 2011.

"All of these things that we're getting is to prepare us and the long-term plan is to finally sit down and come up with a strategic plan on how to implement this and it involves a lot of manpower, data, and of course funding...but in the end, if it goes through, then we're going to have this program here," he said.

Aside from DPS, the Amber Alert Needs Assessment Workshop was attended by participants from the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Probation Office, CNMI Parole Board, and the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence.

BENCH

From page 1

Villanueva's trial is in regards to the contempt charge filed against him by the Office of the Attorney General for refusing to answer questions during legislative investigation on the previous administration's Building Optimism, Opportunity, and Stability Together grant program.

In the hearing yesterday, the prosecuting party for the CNMI, led by Office of the Attorney General assistant attorney general James Kingman, and Villanueva's defense attorney, Keith Chambers, appeared before Naraja and set dates for the trial and other logistics leading up to the trial.

Ultimately the trial date was set for Nov. 6, 2024. During the court session yesterday, Kingman said he believes the trial can be completed within one day, while Chambers disagreed saying the trial could become a three-day affair.

"The trial is not going to be three days straight," said Naraja "If it's going to work around everyone's schedule." He implied that the hearing will start on Nov. 6 and after the hearing and going through the day's testimony, it will be decided if or when the continuing day may be.

TRUMP

From page 1

She also shared her thoughts on Harris coming into the race.

As a delegate to the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin last week, Holl said there was already a rumor that Biden will step down.

"We already heard that in the convention. And in fact, I actually heard that it was going to happen over that weekend. So, we kind of expected that it will happen. I think because of how unified—in the national level at least—the Republican Party is, I think they're doing a good job."

Holl said that with the time remaining she isn't sure if Harris could catch up.

"Especially with the amount of time left in the campaign, I don't know if Kamala will be able to clean the mess and the chaos happening in their party. In fact, today, we don't even know yet if she will be the Democratic nominee. It's still not official, until the convention which is going to be in August. But if she's going to be the replacement, I think, I'm sorry to say, but I don't think she can beat Trump."

Holl and NMI Republican Party delegates Vinnie Sablan, Sen. Dennis Mendiola (R-Rota), and Rocco Valentino paid their way to be part of the convention in Milwaukee where the CNMI Republican Party cast all nine of their votes for Trump. Holl shared that she was honored to have represented the CNMI at the convention.

The NMI Republican Party delegation was part of 2,500 delegates convening for the RNC. Holl shared that even in light of the assassination attempt on Trump and doubled down tight security, there was such unity in the Republican Party, especially stateside, backing Trump for the Republican nomination, which he ultimately won via landslide.

"I saw how unified this Republican Party was. You can see it in the news, they all say that this is a new Republican Party, very strong and very unified, very, very unified, and really organized. During the convention, Sen. J.D. Vance was announced aa Trump's running mate, so as far as the Republican Party, they're already solid," she said. "On the other side, they're still catching up and it's a short time, very short time."

Holl shared that before the RNC she wasn't really a fan of Trump.

"I cannot say that I was a supporter before, no. I went there just because I was, you know, required by the party to represent the Republican Party. But I got to observe him throughout the week, since he was seated pretty close to us. I was observing how he was dealing with the people around him. You know, how he behaves. I can say that I can see a different Trump."

She observed not only the love people had for Trump, but the way he treated them as well.

"And what I noticed is that from the beginning, from the committee all the way to convention, they always pray every time they do something. You know, so they're big in praying. In fact, in the group, like the Guam group, even our delegation had our own prayer group. But it seems like they like to pray, which for me is very important... there was a group of pastors or ministers who Trump consulted before he decided to run something. So that was the side of Trump I did not know. So, yeah, it, it convinced me. So, actually my husband jokes now, that I'm a solid Republican."

Holl shared that during her time at the convention she was able to build relationship with other Republican parties from other U.S. territories and each promised to work together.

"There's a lot of work to be done. I know we will not be voting for president on Saipan or in the CNMI, but there are ways to help the Trump tandem through maybe telling our friends in the mainland or helping the party in different ways, but we really need for them to win. So, we as much as we can, if we can do something to help, we need to help them."

VISA

From page 1

Guam and the CNMI.

Pursuant to the resolution, Marianas legislators are further requesting the U.S. Congress to establish a federal "Marianas Regional Commission."

In a statement from Propst, he said the resolution is a testament to the collaboration of the CNMI and Guam.

"This House resolution received unanimous support from the Guam Legislature as well as Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio. We are grateful for the collaborative efforts between our Marianas leaders, both in government and the private sector. These ideas culminated from the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's president Joe Guerrero and former president Alex Sablan as well as other members of the Chamber and Legislature. We know it is a big ask and request, but we believe with unified efforts coming from the Marianas, we have a stronger voice. We believe our economies will be strengthened if this resolution is honored and carried through. In politics, no asking, no getting," he said.

The CNMI-only transitional worker program, otherwise known as the CW1 Program, will be terminated in December 2029, and the "Temporary Need Exemption" for certain H2B workers in Guam and the CNMI will also be terminated in December 2029.

The CW1 Program has a cap of 13,000 workers—a cap that is reduced annually by 1,000 workers.

In fiscal year 2025, the CW1 cap shall be limited to 9,000 workers and does not authorize the hiring of construction and extraction occupations.

Currently, there are approximately 5,000 CW1 workers in the CNMI and the CNMI may need as many 15,000 foreign workers to meet the demands of the growing economy and the development of new industries.

Currently, Guam has over 5,500 H2B workers, but needs approximately 15,000 foreign workers or more to meet the demands of the local construction industry, tourism industry, the military buildup, and the development of new industries

"The recovery and sustained economic growth in Guam and the CNMI economies will be fostered by the establishment of a federal "Marianas Regional Commission," co-chaired by a presidential appointee, confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and with co-chairs selected by the Governors of Guam and the CNMI, to streamline federal programs focusing on infrastructure, local construction industry, transportation, workforce development, military buildup, climate and environmental risks, and other regional priority concerns," said the resolution.

Responders rescue 15 boaters reported near Goat Island

SANTA RITA, Guam—Fifteen boaters are safe thanks to the combined efforts of the U.S. Navy, good Samaritans from Cabras Marine Corp., the Saipan Department of Public Safety Boating Safety, and the U.S. Coast Guard, following a report they were disabled 15 nautical miles west of Aguiguan Island, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, last July 21.

Two of the 15 boaters were hoisted by U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 (HSC-25) arriving to Guam on July 21, and the other 13 were rescued by the crew of the U.S.-flagged offshore supply vessel *Triton* operated by Cabras Marine Corporation arriving to Saipan in the early morning hours of July 22.

"We thank all partners involved in this critical search effort, including Saipan DPS, DPS Tinian, and the crews of U.S. Navy's HSC-25, MSC's Jack Lummus, and Cabras's *Triton*. Their collective efforts are invaluable in our mission to locate and rescue missing boaters. The hoist capable helicopter crew and local good Samaritans aboard the other vessels were vital to affecting a timely response and saving lives in this case," said Lt. Chelsea Garcia, search and rescue mission coordinator.

At 11:50am local time, on July 21, the Emergency Operations Center Saipan team notified the JRSC watch that Saipan DPS Boating Safety personnel were responding to a report of a distressed boater. Due to marginal weather conditions and long periods of no contact, Saipan DPS faced significant challenges maintaining communications with the boater and search and rescue units.

U.S. Coast Guard watchstander issued an urgent marine information broadcast to all mariners and sought aerial support from HSC-25, while continuing to coordinate with Saipan and Tinian DPS, also providing recommended search patterns based on the limited known information.

Around 5:20pm, HSC-25's crew advised they located the boaters. The boaters, sighting the helicopter, lit off a flare to signal their position and distress. The deteriorating weather conditions and waning daylight led HSC-25's crew to hoist two of the boaters before they needed to depart the scene for fuel, returning to Guam. Saipan DPS again tried to reach the remaining boaters but due to conditions were forced to return to port.

The crew of the 673-foot naval logistics vessel USNS *Jack Lummus* operated by Military Sealift Command was transiting the area and volunteered to assist. They located the vessel with the remaining 13 people aboard around 8:30pm. They remined on scene with the 28-foot recreational vessel until the crew of the *Triton* arrived. The 175-foot motor vessel was a safer platform to recover the boaters due to their respective size and design. The *Triton* crew delivered the 13 survivors to Saipan where they were met by law enforcement personnel. Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service, Saipan DPS, and Guam Customs are involved.

"We urge all mariners to avoid overloading their vessels and to always check weather conditions before setting out. These transits are extremely dangerous and put lives at significant risk. This is the third significant rescue of this type we've effected between Guam and the CNMI since January." said Lt. Garcia. "While this case appears to involve the transit of foreign nationals from the CNMI, we cannot comment further on the ongoing law enforcement investigation."

The 28-foot vessel remains adrift and is a potential hazard to navigation. It is not currently known how they became disabled and adrift. The U.S. Coast Guard did not receive any reports of injuries.

A small craft advisory remains in effect for the Mariana Islands alongside a special weather statement for Invest 93W, expected to move west-northwest through the Mariana Islands yesterday and last night, causing scattered to numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms, with locally heavy rainfall and wind gusts to 30 mph or more. Combined seas in the 6- to 8-foot range are also likely.

About US Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam

The U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam team focuses on maritime safety, security, and stewardship in Oceania. With a primary presence in Guam and Saipan and over 300 members across Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the team maintains a strong U.S. presence in the Micronesia sub-region and adjacent areas, closely tied to local communities.

About Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 25

U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC-25), known as the "Island Knights," is a critical MH-60S Knighthawk expeditionary helicopter squadron based at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. As the island's sole permanently stationed naval aviation and rotary wing asset, HSC-25 plays a vital role in supporting the U.S. 7th Fleet. ***(PR)***

AMID GROWING CHINA INFLUENCE

Pacific island leaders agree to enhance Japan's role in the region

AP

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida speaks at the Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting, or PALM, in Tokyo, Japan, Thursday, July 18, 2024.

TOKYO (AP)—Leaders of 18 Pacific island nations and areas agreed to an enhanced role of Japan in the region's development while opposing any attempted coercive activity, in a joint declaration adopted at their summit Thursday, as Tokyo seeks greater engagement to counter China's influence.

The Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting, or PALM, launched under a Japanese initiative in 1997, has become Japan's key diplomatic tool to deter China's security and economic influence in the region by strengthening its ties with the Pacific Island Forum members, stressing its willingness to stand by them and maintaining unity as an equal partner.

The leaders agreed that Japan provides greater support and cooperation in climate change, maritime security and defense, economic development and other areas, according to the joint declaration.

They noted climate change as "the single greatest existential threat to the livelihoods, security and well-being of the peoples of the Pacific" and showed their commitment to elevating their collaboration to support the region in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

The declaration emphasized the "primacy" of peace and stability and shared "the importance of the free and open international rules-based order in line with the international law."

They expressed "strong opposition to any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by the threat or use of force or coercion anywhere in the world," according to the declaration that carefully avoided identifying China.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told a joint press conference after the meeting that Japan and the island leaders "shared values and principles such as the rule of law, democracy and opposition to attempts to change the status quo by force."

Cook Islands Prime Minister Mark Brown, who is co-chairing this year's summit, welcomed Japan's approach to working with the PIF members "as equals" to achieve their 2050 strategy for the Blue Pacific, "our vision for a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion, and prosperity."

The leaders also adopted action plans of cooperation in seven areas including climate resilience and disaster risk management, sustainable management of oceans, economic resilience, "ensuring people-centered development" and investment in technology and connectivity.

The declaration needs to be put into action, Brown said, adding that the region is having trouble getting climate financing and welcomed Japan's consideration for a contribution but called on the country to "confirm earlier rather than later."

South Pacific island nations have become a focus of security concern among Japan and its ally the United States and their regional partners such as Australia and New Zealand in recent years as Beijing increases its presence in the region where many island nations are economically dependent on China, as with many other countries.

Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, who was at the meeting, told reporters that "the Pacific is so central to our stability and security" and that her country also wants to engage more in the region as a PIF family.

Australia and China have for years had strained relations mostly over trade, though ties have somewhat improved recently.

Wong said she cannot speak for other Pacific leaders but indicated concerns are shared by many. "If you look at the various communiques and declarations from the Pacific Islands Forum over the last two years, you will see that the reality of competition is something those leaders are engaged with," she said.

Wong praised Japan's "respectful way" of cooperating with the Pacific and its priorities as "a model for how external dialogue partners should engage with the region."

Her remarks were echoed by New Zealand Foreign Minister Winston Peters who warned in a speech in Tokyo on Friday of urgent challenges and high stakes in the region as he endorsed Japan's involvement.

"Our region is not benign, far from it," said Peters, who also attended PALM. He added that "relentless pressure" was being applied across the Pacific as influence was "peddled and interference campaigns waged."

Peters did not single out China or any other nation as the target of his comments. But he too exhorted Pacific collaboration, to avoid "duplicating each other's efforts or competing against each other for projects", he said.

Japan has sought to share with the leaders the importance of maintaining the rules-based, free and open international order in the region, with China in mind but carefully not spelled out.

In his separate meetings Wednesday and Thursday with the leaders and other representatives on the sidelines of the summit, Kishida announced Japan's support for infrastructure, fishing projects and other areas.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Want cheaper prescriptions? Start bargaining

President Joe Biden and Senator Bernie Sanders wrote in a recent op-ed that there's "no rational reason" why Americans pay the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs—almost three times more than their peers overseas, according to a recent analysis.

One rational reason is that, until recently, the U.S. was the only developed country that didn't negotiate prices with the pharmaceutical industry. Lawmakers eager to lower Americans' health-care costs should stay focused on getting those negotiations right.

In most rich countries, one buyer—the government—bargains with manufacturers for bulk purchases of medications. In the U.S., that task falls to the private sector, largely through pharmacy benefit managers.

PBMs bundle the buying power of employers and other providers of health benefits and negotiate on their behalf. The industry, which oversees prescriptions for 80% of the U.S. market, says it saves beneficiaries hundreds of billions of dollars a year.

Yet a growing body of evidence suggests that PBMs haven't been doing their job—at least, not consistently—and in some cases may be driving prices higher. For all their heft, PBMs still aren't as effective as national governments at delivering discounts.

According to recent reports, the Federal Trade Commission is preparing to sue the three largest PBMs for inflating prices, and several states have already done so. Vermont, for one, alleges that patients and health plans have been overcharged by millions of dollars a year.

Troubled by recent trends, lawmakers have been scrutinizing the industry. Their investigations — some of which are still underway — have uncovered business practices that could lead to higher prices, as well as a supply chain governed by opaque contracts and potential conflicts of interest.

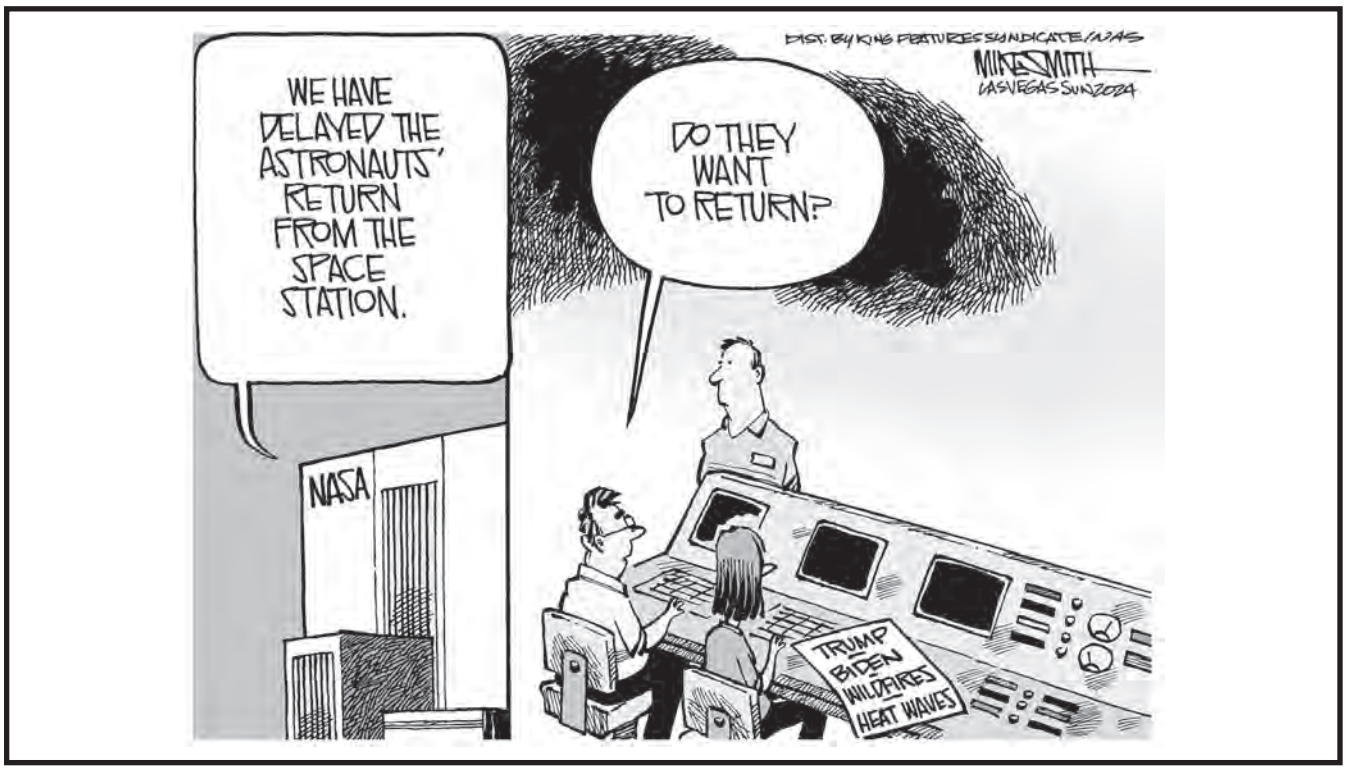
Legislation to address these problems — by increasing price transparency, among other things—has advanced through several congressional committees. It's worth pursuing. Yet absent more evidence, it's hard to see how these proposals will significantly lower drug prices.

Fortunately, there's a better approach. In 2022, Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act, which authorized Medicare to bargain with pharmaceutical manufacturers for the first time. The provision, starting with 10 medications and expanding gradually, is expected to save $100 billion over five years. Biden has proposed expanding the number of medications to 50.

Broadening negotiations is a good idea, so long as lawmakers recognize—and try to mitigate—the inevitable trade-offs. Drugmakers have voiced legitimate concerns that a single buyer will depress prices, discourage investment and stifle innovation.

Private forecasts about the impact of the IRA on drug development have been much higher than government estimates—

See CHEAPER on Page 7



Biden's decision to drop out is one of the most patriotic moments in a long life of service

By LZ GRANDERSON
Los Angeles Times

LZ Granderson is an Op-Ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

I'm sure it doesn't feel this way to President Joe Biden now, given the fighter he is, but stepping down was the right thing for him to do.

Not because members of Congress were calling for it, not because donors had started to withhold funds and certainly not because of that awful debate performance. Deciding not to seek reelection was the right thing to do because doing so fulfills a campaign promise he made to voters shortly after Super Tuesday in 2020.

"Look, I view myself as a bridge, not as anything else," he said at the time. "There's an entire generation of leaders you saw stand behind me. They are the future of this country."

He was 77 then.

Few progressives questioned his ability to work with Congress or bring a sense of normalcy on the world stage. But many voiced concerns about him being an octogenarian when it was time to seek reelection. To ease their anxiety, he said he wanted to undo the damage caused during the Trump administration and to get the country pointed in the right direction. He told us the Pete Buttigiegs and Gretchen Whitmers wouldn't be hamstrung by a Biden reelection bid.

As he noted in his letter on Sunday announcing the decision to not seek reelection, he fulfilled many of the campaign promises he made to the American people.

"Today, America has the strongest economy in the world," Biden wrote. "We've made historic investments in rebuilding our Nation, in lowering prescription drug costs for seniors, and in expanding affordable health care to a record number of Americans. We've provided critically needed care to a million veterans exposed to toxic substances. Passed the first gun safety law in 30 years. Appointed the first African American woman to the Supreme Court. And passed the most significant climate legislation in the history of the world. America has never been better positioned to lead than we are today."

Perhaps achievements such as those are why he found it so hard to keep that one campaign promise — the one about being a bridge to the future.

I guess teaching us how to say goodbye is a lot harder in practice than it is to sing in a popular Broadway musical.

Rarely is the decision to not seek reelection celebrated as honorable. Usually it's an indication of legislative disappointments or morality shortcomings. Like when a coach says he is stepping down to spend more time with his family. It's difficult for us Americans to imagine someone willingly relinquishing power. This is particularly true when that person is as effective as Biden has been. To step out of the presidential election must feel like a gut punch, particularly given the risk of the Republican nominee becoming president.

Donald Trump is the first convicted felon nominated by a major party. He has been found liable for sexual abuse and business fraud. For stretches during his presidency, he had trouble denouncing white supremacy. Four years ago at this time, unemployment was over 10% and we were struggling to find hand sanitizer and toilet paper in our stores.

Biden, like many of us, grew up at a time when evangelical voters in this country would have never considered supporting someone like Trump. Now this con man is worshipped like a demigod—selling Bibles alongside sneakers.

And yet, Biden has been projected to lose to him.

Not because the president isn't good at his job but because the concerns raised about Biden's age back in 2020 have come to pass. He is a good man. He is also dangerously close to looking like Michael Jordan with the Washington Wizards. Politics, like the NBA, is for the young. Washington today is less "The West Wing" and more "Game of Thrones." And Democrats are no longer in need of an elder statesman to remind voters of the promise of America. The party needs a warrior who can be relentless on the campaign trail and effectively communicate the party's message about the future. Biden is no longer able to do either, and that's OK.

In 1972, when he was first elected to the Senate, I was still in diapers. Since then he has dedicated his life to serving this country. And those years of service are very much appreciated.

He did not deserve to be beaten up in the press as badly as he has been by members of his own party. Had he stayed true to his promise to be a bridge candidate, that would not have happened. This year could have been a celebration of Biden's leadership, alongside a robust primary competition to choose a younger nominee.

Instead there is a scramble heading toward the convention in Chicago next month. I hope that Vice President Kamala Harris, with Biden's endorsement, can step smoothly into the top spot on the ticket, and can bring in a running mate such as Sen. Mark Kelly of Arizona, the former astronaut and the husband of former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. That would reset the narrative surrounding the ticket, to be less focused on Biden's age and more on the dangers of the geopolitical policies of Trump and the domestic implications of Project 2025.

Biden's decision to remove himself from the race does not reflect on his administration's effectiveness. It doesn't cast a poor light on his career. What it does is better position the party and the country to avert the threat of a second Trump administration.

I'm sure it doesn't feel this way to Biden now, but history will remember this day as one of the most patriotic moments of his career.

Future of the CNMI's legal system is at stake

By REP. MARISSA RENEE FLORES
Special to the Saipan Tribune

I am deeply concerned about the recent decision by hudge pro tem Arthur Barcinas to disqualify the Office of the Attorney General from prosecuting former governor Ralph DLG Torres. This ruling, which includes the disqualification of assistant attorney general James Robert Kingman, who was not even in the CNMI when the alleged charged crimes occurred, has sparked significant public concern and raised pressing questions about the transparency and integrity of our legal system.

We must address why all of our local judges are recusing themselves from this case. As the judges provided no public explanation for the recusals, our confidence in the judicial process is deeply undermined. What specific conflict of interest or bias prevents them from hearing the case? The public deserves transparency in understanding why our judiciary cannot fully engage with such a significant matter.

The mass recusals resulted in Chief Justice Alexandro Castro appointing a judge (Barcinas) with no history in understanding or adjudicating our law. Moreover, judge Barcinas's decision to disqualify the OAG and special prosecutor Kingman from prosecuting Torres raises additional questions.

The judge's 16-page order should be thoroughly scrutinized and made accessible to the public to ensure that justice is not only done but seen to be done. The lack of a new special prosecutor appointment further complicates the situation, leaving the Executive Branch to oversee prosecutorial authorities. This transfer of responsibility prompts concerns about the separation of powers and the potential for political interference. And all of this after we had amended our constitution to make sure that the AG was elected and independent!

With the OAG's announcement to appeal judge Barcinas's ruling, the next steps in this legal saga remain uncertain. Will the appeal be heard by the justices on our Supreme Court? Or will chief justice Castro and the others abandon their duty by recusing and assigning more off-island pro tem justices? The procedural ambiguities need to be clarified to maintain public trust in the system.

The broader implications of this case extend beyond the immediate legal proceedings. The public's faith in our judicial and prosecutorial institutions is at stake. If recusals and disqualifications occur without adequate explanations, there is an environment of suspicion and mistrust. We must demand greater transparency from our judiciary and a clear articulation of the reasons behind such critical decisions.

In conclusion, the disqualification of the OAG from prosecuting former governor Torres and the subsequent appeal process highlight significant issues within our legal system. Perhaps we must reform our laws to make sure our judges provide clear reasons for their recusals and that the public is kept informed about the progress and procedural decisions in such high-profile cases. The future of our legal system depends on its ability to operate transparently and impartially, and it is the responsibility of all involved to uphold these principles."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Disappointment and disgusted

I am writing to express my extreme disappointment and disgust as a Refaluwasch community member regarding the recent developments in the Chamorro Carolinian (Refaluwasch) Language Heritage Studies (CCLHS) certification program. Despite the participants' sacrifices, the program has been postponed again until August 5-7, with face-to-face sessions at Hopwood Junior High School. This will only give teachers three days to prepare their classrooms for the new school year, impacting the quality of education.

I find it curious that Dr. Clare attributed the schedule change to the lack of devices and internet access among participants, despite their efforts to procure necessary resources. This is a pattern of behavior that demonstrates a lack of respect and support for the Refaluwasch language and culture.

Furthermore, I am disappointed that commissioner Camacho and senior director Quitugua took business-related trips during the break, leaving no one available to address our concerns. This lack of accountability and transparency is unacceptable. I demand immediate action to address this situation and ensure the certification program is implemented as scheduled. The CCLHS teachers and Refaluwasch community deserve better.

Gregorie Michael Éipérang Towai
Via email

It's a faulty CrowdStrike's Falcon system

Please note that in the *Saipan Tribune* article, "Global tech outage impacts CNMI" posted July 22, it was stated that, "The recent worldwide tech outage caused by a faulty Microsoft Windows system update has impacted the CNMI..." This is incorrect. The outage was caused by a defective update for CrowdStrike's Falcon system, not Microsoft.

Ron Smith
Angil Design, Inc. president

Kamala Harris can beat Donald Trump and prove America is ready for a woman president

By ROBIN EPLEY
The Sacramento Bee

The question everyone has been asking in hushed tones now grows to a roar: Does Kamala Harris have what it takes to beat Donald Trump?

God, I hope so. The future of American democracy might depend on it.

Harris' sudden candidacy represents hope that is desperately needed among the centrist and left-leaning American electorate, many of whom could not imagine President Joe Biden beating Trump.

Now that the party has listened to voters and Biden has been convinced to step aside, it's time for us to line up behind Harris.

But as much as centrists and progressives alike would love to see a woman of color in the Oval Office, it's going to be a tough campaign over the next few months for 59-year-old Harris, whose vice presidency has been marred with embarrassing political missteps as much as there's been rampant racism and misogyny to block her way.

Harris's approval rating slumped drastically in the first year, making her one of the least popular vice presidents in history. But partially, at least, that narrative comes from one bad poll conducted in 2021, in the depths of the early pandemic and during a downturn in the economy that we've still not been able to bounce back from. The numbers also showed a dip in Biden's approval at the same time. So how much of this was bad press early on that has just, well—stuck around?

The title of the first female vice president was always going to be tough. And historically, the possibility of a female president hasn't gone well for the candidate. (See: Shirley Chisholm, Michelle Bachmann, Jill Stein and Hillary Clinton.)

But do Americans share enough disgust over Trump this year to forget their traditional misogyny when it comes to the top job?

Harris may be the right candidate to overcome it. Important swing states like North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Nevada have large Black communities, who may flock to the polls to put the first Black female president in office. And women, pregnant people and those who love them of every gender may also see an ally in Harris to help reinstate the protections *Roe v. Wade* once offered.

Trump is leading in the polls, but his lead can be overcome.

However, believing we'll be OK here in California regardless of who wins is a false comfort. The truth is that nowhere in this country will be safe if Trump wins the presidency again, and we have to vote like it. The Democratic Party did what we asked them to do—they convinced Biden to step aside, no easy feat—and now it's our turn to line up behind that candidate.

There may even be some asking if this is the right time to run an all-female ticket.

There's certainly Michigan's governor, Gretchen Whitmer, waiting in the wings. She recently said she would "never say never" to serving as Vice President Harris' running mate. I think one day—perhaps in four years—she would be an excellent presidential candidate. Or perhaps the name the Dems choose will be that of New York Governor Kathy Hochul, who recently reaffirmed her support for Biden—as long as he stayed in the race.

Frankly, it's embarrassing that other major countries like the United Kingdom, Bangladesh, Iceland, Finland, Peru, Norway and now even our close neighbor Mexico, have all had female leaders, while the U.S. lags, shackled by the misogyny in our political system.

But this country's continued sexism is exactly why I think the Democrats shouldn't name two women to the ticket. It may still be too much of an issue for too many voters in this country to put to the test in such a crucial election.

I would suggest the Dems name a moderate male politician from a crucial swing state who will appease left-leaning centrists looking for anything that resembles tradition and stability in the White House for the next four years—even if that's not the ultimate direction many progressives and liberals would like to see the party go, myself included. Democrats need votes more than they need sweeping change, and a female candidate may already be pushing away votes that are desperately needed.

Regardless, whoever shares the ticket with Harris has my vote. She has my support in a way I could never give to Biden. Now we wait and see if a majority of Americans are ready to support a new Democratic ticket for the presidency.

CHEAPER

From page 6

and any one of those drugs could have improved the lives of millions of patients.

To their credit, drafters of the IRA included provisions that aimed to preserve incentives to innovate, largely by exempting most drugmakers from negotiations. If the government's list expands, lawmakers will need to give thought to improving such protections. Under the IRA, for example, drugmakers aren't rewarded for the time-consuming and costly studies that would determine if an approved medication can treat new ailments. (It'd be more lucrative to invest in something else.) Some period of extended exclusivity in such cases would make sense.

The law also subjects drugs with the same active ingredient—say, a liquid dose and a tablet—to negotiations even if they treat different conditions and have been filed under separate applications with regulators. These drugs should be negotiated on their own merits. Bringing the exemption period for small-molecule drugs (currently nine years) in line with biologics (at 13) would be another reasonable compromise. The European Parliament, worried about a lack of innovation and limited access to new drugs, has taken a similar approach.

For too long, the fragmented U.S. health-care system has inflated drug prices. A single government negotiator is a promising remedy. With the right incentives, lifesaving medications at reasonable prices should be an achievable goal.

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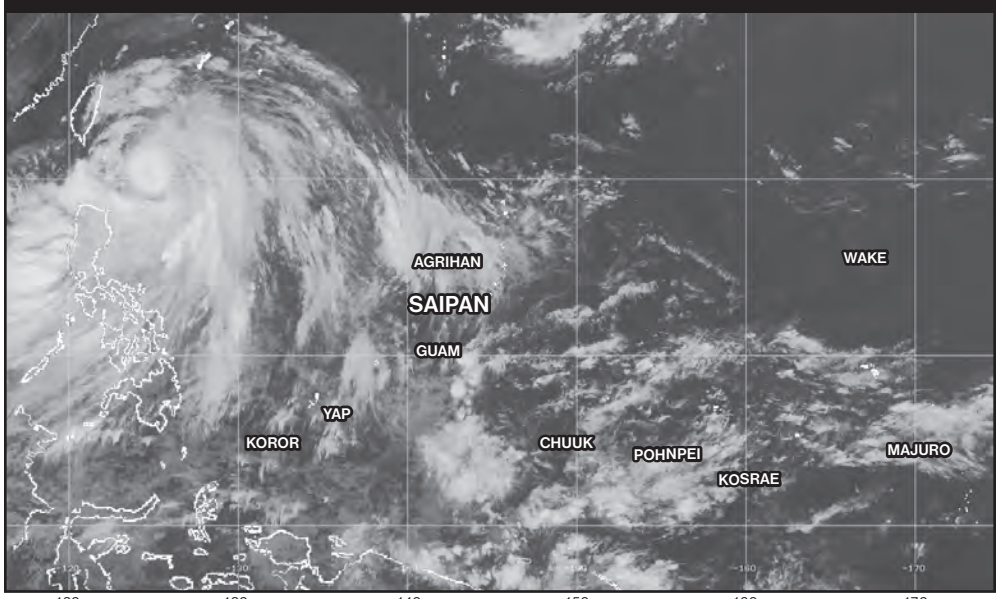
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with a 40 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with showers likely and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
87° 78°	87° 79°	87° 79°	85° 81°	87° 80°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:39 AM TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The Marianas are in an area of ridging this morning located east of Gaemi and whatever remains of the former 93W. Some debris cloudiness is seen, but just isolated showers are on tap for today. Showers will gradually start to build back in tonight, leading to no significant changes to most of the forecast philosophy.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 77°
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	88° / 78°
Kosrae	Cloudy	88° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	55° / 52°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	93° / 68°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 73°
London	Mostly Sunny	72° / 55°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	82° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	54° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°
New York	Mostly Sunny	93° / 75°
Osaka	Thunderstorms	88° / 73°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	79° / 55°
Busan	Showers	79° / 72°
Rome	Sunny	93° / 68°
Salem	Thunderstorms	93° / 73°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	62° / 56°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	88° / 72°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	82° / 73°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	96° / 78°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM
Sunday	5:58 AM	6:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:27 AM	9:18 PM
Thursday	-	9:26 AM	9:59 PM
Friday	-	10:23 AM	10:40 PM
Saturday	-	11:19 AM	11:21 PM
Sunday	-	12:17 PM	-

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:50 AM	Low Tide	1.34
8:44 AM	High Tide	2.16
4:01 PM	Low Tide	-0.14
10:52 PM	High Tide	2.16

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3471	5:50PM	9:30PM	Daily from July 17

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Rota SBDC's Christmas in July exceeds expectations

The Rota Small Business Development Center hosted Christmas in July-Small Business Night with resounding success. The event, held to promote local businesses and foster community spirit, saw a turnout of over a hundred attendees who enjoyed a festive evening of food, drinks, sweet treats, and holiday shopping.

The night was vibrant with cultural and modern dance performances by The Ohana Dancers and the PDK Jr., captivating the audience and adding to the festive atmosphere. The community's enthusiasm was further fueled by a healthy competition among vendors for the best-decorated booth. Angel's Enterprises took third place, followed by Teteto Cool Spot in second, with BBQ Beast winning best overall. The winners were awarded cash prizes of $100, $200, and $300, respectively, all generously donated by Rota's Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, the two dance groups were each rewarded $300 for their outstanding performances.

Throughout the night, attendees also had the opportunity to win raffle prizes donated by various vendors, including Homeland Enterprise, Angel's Enterprise, NAAI, Hagu Lamun, BBQ Beast, Sweet7Oh, Chiku Chiku, Mind2Muscle, and Peter & Kayla Mendiola. These contributions added an extra layer of excitement and community engagement to the event.

The successful execution of Christmas in July-Small Business Night was made possible through the logistical support and partnership of the Rota Mayor's Office, Rota Municipal Council, Rota Chamber of Commerce, NMC CREES, and Diana Benavente Hocog. Their combined efforts ensured a smooth and enjoyable experience for all attendees.

Charlene Manglona Ogo, Rota SBDC director, shared her thoughts on the event: "We are thrilled with the overwhelming response to our first Christmas in July-Small Business Night. This event highlights the strength and unity of our community and the importance of supporting local businesses. We are committed to continuing our efforts in providing platforms that allow our small businesses to thrive."

Christmas in July holds significant importance for our small businesses, providing them with a platform to showcase their offerings, connect with the community, and boost their visibility and sales. The Rota SBDC is committed to continuing its support for small businesses through such initiatives, recognizing the vital role they play in the local economy and community well-being.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

A participant of Rota Small Business Development Center's Christmas in July-Small Business Night poses with an inflatable snowman.

Participants are all smiles while taking part in Rota Small Business Development Center's Christmas in July-Small Business Night.

Over a hundred attendees took part in Rota Small Business Development Center's Christmas in July-Small Business Night.

Christmas in July coming to Saipan

Join the CNMI SBDC and the Northern Marianas College this Thursday, July 25, 2024 at the As Terlaje campus on Saipan at the Building V (V. S. Sablan Vocational Training Center) parking lot from 5pm to 8pm for a night of fun and entertainment while we spread the holiday cheer this summer! There will be a friendly table decorating competition amongst our vendors and opportunities for children to enjoy a train ride around the festivity grounds while we feature some of our up-and-coming SBDC clients. Stay tuned for our complete event lineup and list of vendors to be published on all our social media platforms.

For more information about upcoming events and how the Rota SBDC supports small businesses, contact Charlene M. Ogo at (670) 532-9513. To become a client of SBDC please register at marianas.eccenterdirect.com, call (670) 237-6888, or email cnmisbdc@marianas.edu. To stay updated with your local SBDC, visit our website at www.cnmisbdc.com, @cnmisbdc on Instagram or follow us on FaceBook: https://www.facebook.com/cnmisbdc.

The CNMI SBDC Network promotes a business-friendly economic infrastructure in the community, builds entrepreneurial capacity and financial literacy within that community, and provides current and nascent small businesses with the technical assistance, counseling, training, and support they need to innovate, adapt, and grow.

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network is comprised of the CNMI SBDC lead center located in Saipan, the Rota SBDC, and Tinian SBDC. The CNMI SBDC Network is partially funded by a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration and the Northern Marianas College. All opinions, conclusions, or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with at least two weeks advance notice. For arrangements, please contact your local SBDC at P. O. Box 501250 Saipan, MP 96950, Tel: (670) 237-6888, or email SBDC Administrative office manager Adelpha Magona at adelpha.magofna@marianas.edu.Services are extended to the public on a non-disciplinary basis. ***(AP)***

PH president orders shutdown of Chinese-run online gambling industry employing thousands

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Monday ordered an immediate ban on widespread and mostly Chinese-run online gaming operations, accusing them of venturing into crimes, including financial scams, human trafficking, torture, kidnappings and murder.

His move to ban the Chinese-run online gambling outfits—estimated to number more than 400 across the Philippines and employing tens of thousands of Chinese and Southeast Asian nationals—came amid a crackdown backed by Beijing.

That has led to the shutdown of several sprawling complexes where authorities suspect thousands of Chinese, Vietnamese and other nationals mostly from Southeast Asia have been illegally recruited and forced to work in dismal conditions.

Marcos announced the decision during his state-of-the-nation address, when he also said that the Philippines would press efforts to strengthen its defensive capability by forging security alliances with friendly countries to counter threats to its territorial interests in the South China Sea, adding that his country would only settle disputes through diplomacy.

The Philippines has a complicated relationship with China, including significant trade engagements and cooperation against crime. But they have also had longstanding disputes in the South China Sea.

Relatedly, Philippine senators ordered the arrest of a town mayor in Tarlac province north of Manila who has failed to appear at public hearings where allegations against her were being investigated, including her alleged links to a large online gambling complex near her townhall and suspicions that she fraudulently hid her Chinese nationality to be able to run for a public office reserved only for Filipinos.

The mayor, Alice Guo, has denied any wrongdoing but has been suspended from her post with her financial assets ordered frozen. Philippine senators say the massive online gambling industry has flourished largely due to corruption in regulatory agencies and payoffs to local officials.

"Disguising as legitimate entities, their operations have ventured into illicit areas furthest from gaming such as financial scamming, money laundering, prostitution, human trafficking, kidnapping, brutal torture, even murder," Marcos said in his address. "The grave abuse and disrespect to our system of laws must stop."

Marcos ordered the gaming agency to wind down the operations of the gambling outfits by year's end, drawing loud applause in the House of Representatives. He asked labor officials to look for alternative jobs for Filipino workers who would be displaced because of the shutdown.

Setting out his vision for the year ahead, Marcos outlined moves to address a range of issues, including soaring costs of food and electricity, poverty and low wages.

His administration's "bloodless war" on dangerous drugs never aimed at "extermination," Marcos said in an obvious criticism of his predecessor's brutal anti-drugs crackdown that left thousands of mostly innocent suspects killed.

The International Criminal Court has been investigating the widespread drug killings under former President Rodrigo Duterte as a possible crime against humanity. Duterte has denied authorizing extrajudicial killings.

On Manila's increasingly hostile disputes with Beijing, Marcos stressed the Philippines would not back down but would only resort to peaceful means to resolve any dispute.

"The West Philippine Sea is not only a figment of our imagination. It belongs to us," Marcos said, using the Philippine name for the stretch of the South China Sea that Manila claims.

Nation

Harris has daunting to-do list as she starts up presidential campaign

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's a daunting to-do list. Vice President Kamala Harris suddenly needs to whip up a presidential campaign almost from scratch.

It's a process that usually takes months, even years. Harris has only about two months before early voting starts. And, of course, nothing is guaranteed, despite her getting the endorsement of President Joe Biden—and significant pieces of his campaign—after he exited the race on Sunday.

That means she is in a rush to raise money, figure out a strategy, hire staff, set up a website, make some ads, plan a convention and on and on. The checklist is long, but at least, as of Monday morning, she had a campaign logo.

And Harris does have a big advantage in that she's already on the Democratic ticket as the vice presidential nominee and had run previously in 2020 for the presidency. With a boost from Biden's endorsement, she's secured support from enough delegates to become her party's nominee.

"It's less of a lift to do it with Harris, who has been on the national stage," says Democratic pollster Cornell Belcher.

She needs to haul in cash.

Even if the campaign is something of a start-up, Harris does have a leg up. That's thanks to the existing Biden campaign infrastructure that she will inherit. There are campaign offices already in Wilmington, Delaware. The official campaign committee has been renamed for her, according to filings with the Federal Election Commission. She can retain much of Biden's campaign staff and layer in her own people.

AP

Vice President Kamala Harris arrives to speak from the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Monday, July 22, 2024, during an event with NCAA college athletes.

"Campaigns are basically startup companies with hundreds, of millions of dollars, with hundreds of staff, all trying to do a lot of things in a very short period of time," says Joe Caiazzo, who was the 2020 state director in New Hampshire for Bernie Sanders' presidential bid. "And there's a whole Democratic operating class that is ready and waiting."

But the big thing might be money: As of the start of July, the campaign committee already had nearly $96 million in cash-on-hand. That allows her to launch without waiting for checks to come in. And her ascendance has generated newfound enthusiasm after Biden's June 27 debate debacle shook the confidence of Democratic supporters and voters. Within a day of receiving Biden's endorsement, Harris had raised $81 million, the largest 24-hour haul this year by any campaign, according to her team.

There are also independent committees supporting each campaign that also increase their spending totals. But Harris enters the race as Republican Donald Trump has some financial momentum, with his campaign reporting $128.1 million in cash on hand.

Trump's lawyers urge NY appeals court to overturn 'egregious' civil fraud verdict

NEW YORK (AP)—Fresh off victories in other legal cases, Donald Trump on Monday pressed a New York appeals court to overturn the nearly $500 million New York civil fraud judgment that threatens to drain his personal cash reserves as he campaigns to retake the White House.

In paperwork filed with the state's mid-level appeals court, the former president's lawyers said Manhattan Judge Arthur Engoron's Feb. 16 finding that Trump lied to banks, insurers and others about his wealth was "erroneous" and "egregious."

Trump's appeal arguments echoed many of the gripes he delivered during his trial to TV cameras outside the courtroom.

His lawyers argued that New York Attorney General Letitia James' lawsuit should have been promptly dismissed, the statute of limitations barred some allegations, that no one was harmed by Trump's alleged fraud and that James' involvement in private business transactions threatens to drive business out of the state.

Trump's lawyers contend that Engoron's decision, if upheld, would bestow James, a Democrat, with "limitless power to target anyone she desires, including her self-described political opponents," Trump's lawyers wrote in a 116-page filing with the Appellate Division of the state's trial court.

Engoron rejected many of the same objections as the case proceeded to trial last year, at one point equating them to the plot of the film "Groundhog Day" and fining some of Trump's lawyers $7,500 each for "repetitive, frivolous" argument. The Appellate Division previously denied Trump's bid to end the case on statute of limitations and other grounds.

Trump posted a $175 million bond in April to halt collection of the judgment and prevent James' office from seizing his assets while he appeals. If he wins, he won't have to pay the state anything and will get back the money he has put up now.

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Biden continues to recover from COVID, stays out of public view after ending campaign

REHOBOTH BEACH, Del. (AP)—President Joe Biden's "symptoms have almost resolved completely" from COVID-19, according to his physician, as the president on Monday remained out of public view for the fifth straight day.

Biden called into the Wilmington, Delaware, headquarters of his former campaign during a visit by Vice President Kamala Harris, whose bid for the White House has been endorsed by Biden. The president sought to pep up the staff, urging them to give "every bit" of their "heart and soul" to Harris. Biden also vowed to be "out on the road" campaigning for his vice president.

"If I didn't have Covid, I'd be standing there with you," said Biden, whose voice sounded a touch gravelly.

The president was last seen in public late Wednesday after arriving at a U.S. air base in Dover, Delaware, after testing positive for COVID-19 while campaigning in Las Vegas earlier in the day. He then motorcaded to his vacation home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. The White House says Biden plans to return to the White House on Tuesday afternoon.

Biden's physician, Dr. Kevin O'Connor, said that the president had completed his 10th dose of the COVID-fighting medication Paxlovid on Monday morning and continued to perform all of his presidential duties.

"His symptoms have almost resolved completely. His pulse, blood pressure, respiratory rate and temperature remain absolutely normal," O'Connor wrote. "His oxygen saturation continues to be excellent on room air. His lungs remain clear."

The White House said Biden received separate briefings on Monday from homeland security adviser Liz Sherwood-Randall and national security adviser Jake Sullivan. Both briefings were conducted virtually.

Biden's public schedule for the week has remained clear as he recovers from the virus, but he said in his letter on Sunday that he planned to deliver an address to the nation this week to discuss his decision to end his candidacy.

Life & Style

Eminem brings Taylor Swift's historic reign at No. 1 to an end, Stevie Wonder's record stays intact

Eminem's latest album, "The Death of Slim Shady (Coup de Grâce)," has debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200, unseating Taylor Swift's "The Tortured Poets Department" after 12 weeks.

In its first week, "The Tortured Poets Department" hit 891.34 million album streams stateside, according to Luminate, the biggest streaming week for an album in history.

Swift's album debuted at No. 1 in April and held the top spot for three months. She is the only woman to have done so; Swift beat the previous record held by Whitney Houston's 1987 album, "Whitney." It spent its first 11 weeks at No. 1.

"The Tortured Poets Department" tied Morgan Wallen's 2023 album "One Thing at a Time," which also debuted at No. 1 and stayed there for 12 consecutive weeks. (It would later remerge at the top spot, spending 19 weeks total at No. 1.)

AP

Eminem performs at the Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival on June 9, 2018, left, and Taylor Swift performs at Wembley Stadium in London as part of her Eras Tour on June 21, 2024. Eminem's 12th studio album.

The only album to outperform them is Stevie Wonder's 1976 masterpiece, "Songs in the Key of Life." It spent 13 weeks at No. 1 after debuting in the top spot; 14 weeks there in total.

"The Death of Slim Shady (Coup de Grâce)" is Eminem's 12th album and his 11th to hit No. 1. "The Tortured Poets Department" dropped to No. 4 as a result. In the second slot is K-pop boy band ENHYPHEN's "ROMANCE:UNTOLD" and irreverent country Zach Bryan's "The Great American Bar Scene" is at No. 3. ***(AP)***

Calls for Maya Rudolph to reprise her Kamala Harris on 'SNL' are flooding social media

NEW YORK (AP)—Will Maya Rudolph's "funt," aka Vice President Kamala Harris, be back on "Saturday Night Live"

Speculation has been running hot since Sunday, when President Joe Biden dropped his election news, but the "SNL" alum is a busy actor these days.

Rudolph earned four Emmy nods last week for her work on three different shows: "Loot" (just renewed for a third season on Apple TV+), "Big Mouth" on Netflix and two nominations for a hosting stint on "SNL."

She played Harris several times as a guest on "SNL" in 2019, during the 2020 presidential election cycle. Rudolph was a cast member on the NBC show from 2000 to 2007.

The "Bridesmaids" actor won an Emmy for her Harris in December 2019 during a cold open send-up of the PBS Democratic debate soon after Harris dropped out of the presidential race. She debuted the character earlier that year during a town hall bit that had her introducing her Harris as "America's cool aunt. A fun aunt. I call that a 'funt.'"

AP

Maya Rudolph appears at the Time100 Gala in New York on April 25, 2024, left, and Vice President Kamala Harris appears at a luncheon for Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at the State Department in Washington on April 11, 2024.

Her Emmy-winning turn as Harris referenced Lizzo's "Truth Hurts" with: "I just want to show you how good you could've had it, America. You withheld your donations, and I got tired of waiting, so I walked my fine ass out the door." Rudolph then sang: "You coulda had a bad bitch."

Calls for Rudolph to return to the role have flooded social media since Biden stepped aside. He and Democratic leaders have thrown their support to Harris as their presidential nominee ahead of the Aug. 19 start of the party's convention in Chicago.

The 50th season of "SNL" premieres Sept. 28. An NBC spokesperson said there are no discussions at the moment about a Rudolph return since the show is on hiatus. An email request for comment to Rudolph wasn't immediately returned Monday.

Rudolph wasn't the first, or last, person to take on presidents and other names in U.S. politics over at "SNL."

Warner Bros. Discovery informs NBA it will match Amazon Prime Video's offer to air games

By JOE REEDY
AP Sports Writer

Turner Sports intends to continue its longtime relationship with the NBA.

Warner Bros. Discovery informed the league Monday that it will match the $1.8 billion per year offer by Amazon Prime Video. Turner has had an NBA package since 1984 and games have been on TNT since the network launched in 1988.

"We have reviewed the offers and matched one of them. This will allow fans to keep enjoying our unparalleled coverage, including the best live game productions in the industry and our iconic studio shows and talent, while building on our proven 40-year commitment for many more years," Warner Bros. Discovery said in a statement. "Our matching paperwork was submitted to the league today. We look forward to the NBA executing our new contract."

The NBA's Board of Governors approved the league's 11-year media rights deals with Disney, NBC and Amazon Prime Video at its meeting in Las Vegas last Tuesday. WBD received all three contracts Wednesday, which started the five-day clock for whether it wanted to match.

The new deals—collectively worth $76 billion—will begin with the 2025-26 season, and include a game being aired or streamed nationally every night during the second half of the season.

The Prime Video offer has games on Thursday night after it is done carrying NFL games. Its other nights are Friday and Saturday.

Amazon Prime Video did not comment on WBD's intention to match.

An NBA spokesperson said the league is reviewing the matching offer.

If the NBA accepts the matching offer, TNT would likely carry games on Thursday with the other nights being streamed on Max.

Warner Bros. Discovery CEO David Zaslav sounded an ominous note when he said during an RBC Investor Conference in November 2022 that Turner and WBD "don't have to have the NBA."

Warner Bros. Discovery and the league were unable to reach a deal during the exclusive negotiating period, which expired in April. Zaslav and TNT Sports Chairman/CEO Luis Silberwasser have said during the past couple months, though, that it intended to match one of the deals.

Room assignments unclear for visiting 'throuple'

DEAR ABBY: My 25-year-old son lives with his two girlfriends, who are also romantically involved with each other. They share a single bedroom. One of them has a baby due this week, and the other has made noises about wanting a child.

I don't approve of this arrangement and can't see it ending well. I love my son and I have a good relationship with all three of them, but it flies in the face of my upbringing and beliefs.

My question: How do I deal with this threesome if they come stay at my house? I don't want this going on under my roof, but I don't know how to assign bedrooms. If it were just two of them in a committed relationship, I could suck it up and put them together, but all three?

I think my son knows me well enough to (hopefully) make that decision before coming here. I'm afraid if I assign bedrooms according to my convictions, it will lead to a falling-out. Any advice?

CONFLICTED DAD IN OHIO

DEAR DAD: Discuss your feelings with your son as soon as he tells you he and his "extended family" want to stay at your home. Explain that what goes on in his dwelling is his business, but in your home, you prefer the three of them (or four, once the baby arrives) not share one room, and let HIM decide where everyone sleeps. (This would include staying in a nearby hotel or motel during their visit, which might be more comfortable for them.)

■■■

DEAR ABBY: After 40 years, I just started talking to my daughter again. I explained why I hadn't been in her life, which was not at all what her father had told her. He told her I abandoned her and her brother and wanted nothing more to do with them—this is NOT TRUE. Those kids were my life. Now, she can't understand why her father lied to them all these years.

I have no idea how to comfort her or even build a relationship after all this time. I gave birth to her brother at 15 and to her at 16. Their father was older and very controlling. We live in two different states, which doesn't help. I have never stopped loving and missing my kids. I have asked multiple people for suggestions, and they have nothing to offer. Any advice would be greatly appreciated.

RECONNECTING IN TENNESSEE

DEAR RECONNECTING: It is wonderful that after all these years you have finally been able to make a connection with your daughter. Please, take it slowly, one step at a time. She will need to understand how young you were when she and her brother were born, and the imbalance of power in your relationship with their older (and controlling) father. Your daughter should know you always wanted her in your life, but that the estrangement was their father's punishment for you. Reinforce that you never stopped loving, missing or thinking about them and they are part of you. Living in different states may make things more challenging, but you may be able to establish a friendship and visit your daughter in the future.

■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

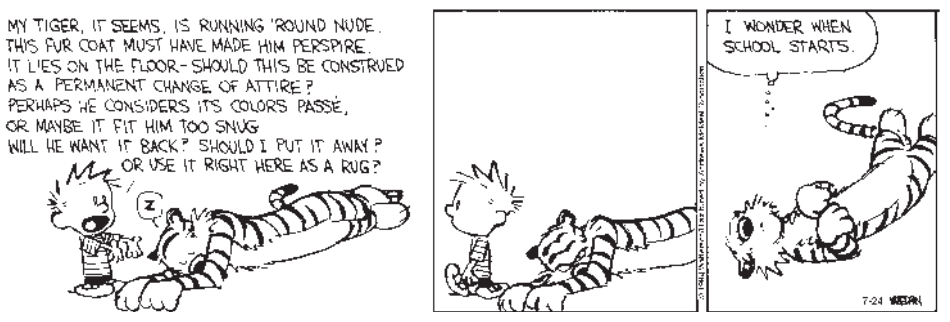
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MY TIGER, IT SEEMS, IS RUNNING 'ROUND NUDE. THIS FUR COAT MUST HAVE MADE HIM PERSPIRE. IT LIES ON THE FLOOR - SHOULD THIS BE CONSTRUED AS A PERMANENT CHANGE OF ATTIRE? PERHAPS HE CONSIDERS ITS COLORS PASSÉ, OR MAYBE IT FIT HIM TOO SNUG. WILL HE WANT IT BACK? SHOULD I PUT IT AWAY? OR USE IT RIGHT HERE AS A RUG?
I WONDER WHEN SCHOOL STARTS.
7-24

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

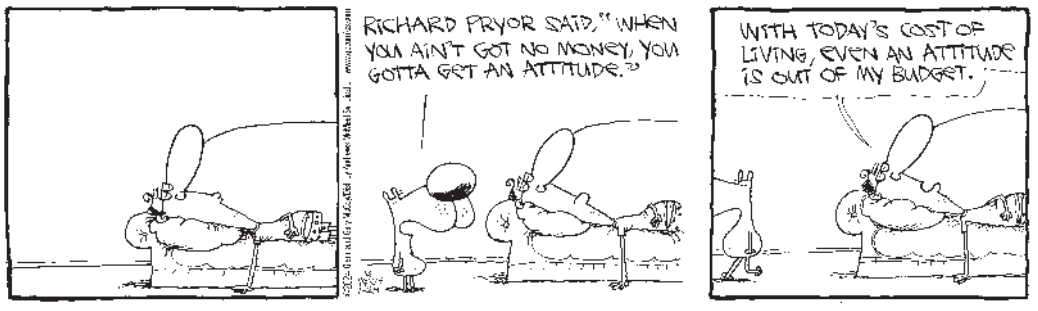
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

KNOW THIS, BROTHER.
I WILL GET REVENGE FOR THE RUBBER SNAKE IN MY BED.
7-24
COULD HAPPEN TODAY. COULD HAPPEN WHEN YOU'RE FIFTY-SIX. YOU WILL LIVE IN CONSTANT FEAR.
WHEN I'M FIFTY-SIX, I PLAN TO HAVE A MANSION WITH SECURITY.
I PLAN TO HAVE AN ARMY.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


RICHARD PRYOR SAID, "WHEN YOU AIN'T GOT NO MONEY, YOU GOTTA GET AN ATTITUDE."
WITH TODAY'S COST OF LIVING, EVEN AN ATTITUDE IS OUT OF MY BUDGET.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Regarding
5 Genesis vessel
8 Preschool lessons
12 Blueprint
13 "The Simpsons" tavern owner
14 Membership
15 Pub perch
17 "Brave" singer Bareilles
18 Trades
19 Oodles
21 Toward the rising sun
24 Sci-fi beings
25 "Mad Money" network
28 Surfer's concern
30 Globe
33 Diner dessert
34 Pastrami sellers
35 Guitar's kin
36 Chopping tool
37 Termini
38 Espy
39 "Didn't I tell you?
41 Off-white
43 Pooch-pampering place
46 Martini garnish
50 Redact
51 Odessa's shoreline
54 Writer Rice
55 Droid
56 Power co. supply
57 Fury
58 Ghanaian export
59 Sprint

DOWN
1 LAPD alerts
2 Cabbage salad
3 "American Pie" actress Reid
4 Without a contract
5 "I love," to Livy
6 Aussie hopper
7 Iodine source
8 Plus
9 Legume-rich course
10 Shopper's aid
11 "Don't move!"
16 Airport screening org.
20 Sediment
22 British gun
23 Diacritical mark
25 Financial pro
26 Kibosh
27 Attack near a hive
29 Platter
31 MGM rival
32 Wager
34 Profound
38 Moped
40 Makeup mogul Lauder
42 Sinbad's bird
43 Bosc, for one
44 Writer Buchanan
45 "Dear —"
47 Actress Fisher
48 Geese formations
49 Apiece
52 Mauna —
53 S dispenser

Solution time: 23 mins.

F	A	C	I		S	A	M		I	A	N	S
A	G	F	F		P	I	F		A	R	I	A
R	O	I	T	I	D	F		R	A	T	S	
			L	A	T		T	A	B	L	E	S
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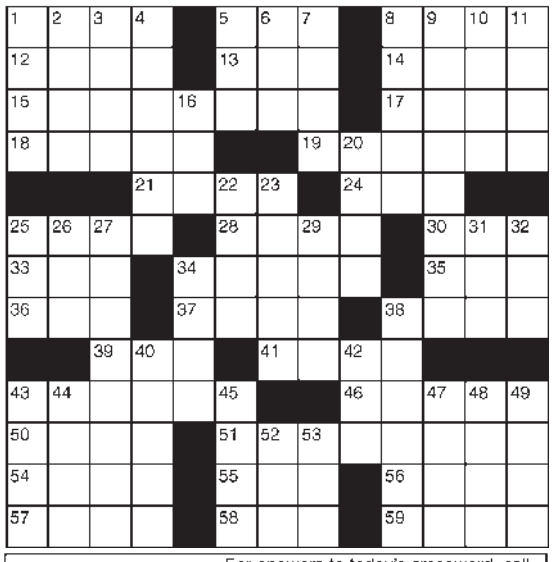
V	E	E	R		R	E	N	T	R	O	L	L
F	R	F		V	O	L	G	A		M	I	A
R	O	L	L	T	O	P	S		T	E	N	D
			L	E	M	S		B	A	N	G	S
M	A	L	O	N	E		C	O	B			
A	H	O	Y		T	U	N	A	R	O	L	L
R	E	C	D		T	R	U		I	B	I	D
X	M	A	S		C	L	S		Z	I	P	S

Yesterday's answer 7-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Elisabeth Moss, 42; Anna Paquin, 42; Jennifer Lopez, 55; Kristin Chenoweth, 56.

Happy Birthday: Take the time to get the facts and figures this year. Too much of anything will work against you. Stay focused on what's essential, and reduce your intake and overhead. Use your energy to make a difference, and work toward a lifestyle that offers peace of mind and gratitude. Contribute your best effort where it will have an impact. Your numbers are 2, 13, 18, 26, 34, 39, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Mix things up and combine business with pleasure. You'll get a different perspective on making the most of your day. An opportunity will arise due to sharing information; however, it's better to verify information before you commit. A physical improvement will fetch compliments. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Concentrate on putting your chores behind you early in the day. You'll want to relax and take care of your personal needs. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of you or talk you into something that doesn't appeal to you. Implement changes that offer peace of mind. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Give yourself a break, think and decide your next move. Don't let anyone pressure you or lure you down a path that tempts you to be emotionally, financially or physically overindulgent. Be good to yourself and you'll have no regrets. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Settling for less than you want isn't acceptable. Refuse to let outside influences stand between you and what you want. Use your imagination and think innovatively, and you'll find a solution that will satisfy your needs and meet the requirements necessary to reach your objective. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Let your creativity flourish. Be open to suggestions, but pay attention to your budget. A change is apparent, but only if your motives are genuine. Put your emotions aside and let your intelligence decide what's best for you. Make personal growth and gain your priorities. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Address financial issues and contracts, and implement the changes necessary to head in a better direction. Change your surroundings and routine, or reach out to those who can offer a unique perspective. You'll discover something that will encourage you to take responsibility for your happiness. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Create opportunities, expand your mind, learn a new skill and initiate positive change. Take control of your destiny, and use your intelligence and charm to win favors and support. Don't overreact or underestimate; gather the facts and invest time and energy to reach your objective. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Take a deep breath, exhale and rethink your journey. Take a break to do something that distances you from problems or uncertainty before you revisit lingering problems. There are far more options than you realize. Dump dead weight and replace it with something new and exciting. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Set your sights on what brings you joy. Refuse to let anyone drag you into their drama or try to dump responsibilities that don't belong to you in your lap. Concentrate on looking, feeling and doing your best; you'll gain confidence and insight into your next endeavor. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Research before agreeing to changes. Evaluate the cost and time it will take to reach your objective. Get as many opinions as possible and assess the potential outcome before venturing down an unfamiliar path. Don't fold under pressure or let your emotions lead the way. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* High energy, excitement and adopting an electrifying lifestyle change will brighten your outlook and encourage spending more time with the ones you love doing the things that bring you the most joy. Step up and live life your way. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Put the past behind you, live in the moment and use your skills, knowledge and experience to get you where you want to go. You'll have the discipline to outmaneuver anyone who tries to get in your way. Forward-thinking will bring the best outcome. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are fetching, optimistic and modern. You are accommodating and sensitive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				5				
5		4	3				1	7
9				7	8			
							4	3
	9			2		1		
		8				9		
8			2					
4		9	5		1	8		
		1				3	7	9

Difficulty: ★★★ 7/24

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	1	8	6	4	3	5	2	7
6	2	3	5	7	9	1	4	8
4	5	7	1	2	8	6	3	9
7	9	6	3	8	4	2	5	1
5	3	4	2	9	1	8	7	6
2	8	1	7	6	5	3	9	4
8	6	9	4	3	2	7	1	5
3	7	5	9	1	6	4	8	2
1	4	2	8	5	7	9	6	3

Difficulty: ★★ 7/23

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

FOR COURIERS ONLY Solution: 9 letters

T	R	O	P	S	N	A	R	T	R	U	C	K	E	R
R	R	E	G	C	O	N	V	E	Y	A	N	C	E	E
A	E	A	I	R	Y	R	E	V	I	L	E	D	D	C
C	X	Y	N	R	E	T	S	E	F	I	N	A	M	I
K	P	E	L	S	R	E	N	A	V	E	O	E	R	P
I	R	C	D	E	I	A	T	E	S	L	M	G	O	I
N	E	I	R	Ⓗ	M	T	C	K	H	O	A	A	F	E
G	S	V	I	Ⓤ	V	I	R	C	L	E	I	K	I	N
N	S	R	V	Ⓑ	O	O	T	O	P	U	L	C	N	T
I	E	E	E	V	W	A	R	D	N	O	B	A	U	H
N	R	S	N	R	P	R	P	I	C	K	U	P	I	G
N	D	I	E	S	X	O	B	P	O	R	D	C	G	I
A	D	P	I	H	A	U	L	A	G	E	H	T	H	E
L	A	D	I	N	G	T	R	E	V	I	E	C	E	R
P	O	S	T	A	G	E	L	B	A	I	L	E	R	F

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Address, Bulk, Carrier, Conveyance, Delivery, Dispatch, Dock, Drive, Drop Box, Express, Freight, Greet, Haulage, Hub, Invoice, Lading, Load, Mail, Manifest, Package, Paperwork, Pickup, Planning, Postage, Pouch, Receiver, Recipient, Reliable, Route, Sender, Service, Timely, Tracking, Transit, Transport, Trucker, Uniform, Van

Yesterday's Answer: Drinking

The NEW Wonderword Grand Millennium #1 in LARGE PRINT is now available at: www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

LeBron selected as Team USA male flagbearer for opening ceremony

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

AP

United States' forward LeBron James waves to the crowd after the end of an exhibition basketball game between the United States and South Sudan, at the o2 Arena in London, Saturday, July 20, 2024

LeBron James wasn't totally sure what the opening ceremony was all about when he was picked for his first Olympics in 2004.

This time, he'll be one of the stars of the show.

James has been picked by his fellow U.S. Olympians to serve as the male flagbearer for the Americans in Friday night's opening ceremony for the Paris Games. He becomes the third basketball player—and the first men's player—to carry the U.S. flag at the start of an Olympics, joining Dawn Staley for the Athens Games in 2004 and Sue Bird for the Tokyo Games that happened in 2021.

"It's an incredible honor to represent the United States on this global stage, especially in a moment that can bring the whole world together," James said. "For a kid from Akron, this responsibility means everything to not only myself, but to my family, all the kids in my hometown, my teammates, fellow Olympians and so many people across the country with big aspirations. Sports have the power to bring us all together, and I'm proud to be a part of this important moment."

The 39-year-old James got word of the honor Monday in London, a few hours before the U.S. men's team was scheduled to play its final pre-Olympics exhibition game against World Cup champion Germany.

Fellow U.S. star and first-time Olympian Stephen Curry, on behalf of the U.S. men's team, nominated James for the flagbearer role.

"We understand how much of an honor it is to be in that position and I think Bron's entire career, on and off the court, speaks for itself as him being worthy of that honor," Curry said in the nomination video.

"He has represented what it means to be excellent both on and off the court in his commitment to service and to uplifting the community in all ways that he knows how has been a lifelong passion," Curry added. "And the work speaks for itself."

The female U.S. flagbearer is expected to be revealed Tuesday. The International Olympic Committee decided in 2020 that national delegations would have two flagbearers—one male, one female—at the opening ceremony at an Olympics, a move to promote gender parity. The U.S. is expected to have nearly 600 athletes in the Paris Games, about 53% of them female.

"Being selected by your teammates to carry the flag is a tremendous honor—and a testament to LeBron's passion for Team USA and his dedication to his sport," U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee CEO Sarah Hirshland said.

James—a global icon, a four-time NBA champion and the league's all-time leading scorer set to go into his record-tying 22nd NBA season—is set to play in the Olympics for the fourth time, after he was part of U.S. teams that won bronze in 2004, gold at Beijing in 2008 and gold again in London in 2012. He walked in the opening ceremony at each of his three previous Olympics.

This time, he'll float.

This will be an opening ceremony like none other in Olympic history: Thousands of athletes will be part of a flotilla sailing along the River Seine at sunset toward the Eiffel Tower. It's a 6-kilometer (3.7-mile) route, with about 320,000 guests set to watch from the river bank and about 1 billion more, Olympic officials estimate, watching on televisions around the world.

Not all Olympic athletes take part in the opening ceremony; many skip it for logistical reasons, such as having to compete the following day. James and the four-time defending gold medalist U.S. men don't open Olympic play until Sunday, when they face Serbia at Lille, France.

James and the U.S. Olympians will be waiting longer than almost any other nation for their trip on the Seine. By IOC custom, Greece—which will have NBA star Giannis Antetokounmpo as one of its two flagbearers—will lead the procession, followed by the Refugee Olympic Team and then about 200 more national delegations. The U.S. is scheduled to go next-to-last in the procession, because Los Angeles will play host to the next Summer Games in 2028.

France, as the host, will be the final nation in the opening ceremony procession. Its men's basketball team, featuring reigning NBA rookie of the year Victor Wembanyama, opens Olympic play on Saturday and isn't expected to be present for the opening ceremony.

Larsson's basket in OT lifts Heat to 120-118 win over Grizzlies and 1st Summer League title

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Pelle Larsson broke a tie by scoring from the lane in overtime to give Miami a 120-118 victory over the Memphis Grizzlies on Monday and hand the Heat their first NBA Summer League championship.

"Coach (Dan Bisaccio) drew up a great play we've run in practice a bunch of times," Larsson said. "They did a good job guarding it. We have shooters everywhere and they want to help, and I just made it."

This was the highest-scoring game in championship history and just the second one to go into overtime. The Los Angeles Lakers' 110-98 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers in 2017 had the previous record for total points in the Summer League final. Just the year before, the Chicago Bulls defeated the Minnesota Timberwolves 84-82 for the only other final to reach OT.

Under Summer League overtime rules, both teams played to a target score rather than under a clock. That score was set at 120 points.

Game MVP Josh Christopher led the Heat (6-0) with 24 points, Kel'el Ware had 21 points and 10 rebounds, Alondes Williams scored 21 points, Cole Swider had 19 points and Larsson finished with 16 points.

Jake LaRavia led the Grizzlies (5-1) with 32 points, Scotty Pippen Jr. had 29 points and 11 assists and GG Jackson scored 28 points.

Each team traded 3-pointers to force the extra session. Swider put the Heat up 113-110 with 19.6 seconds left and Jackson matched him with 10.5 seconds remaining. Miami had a chance to win in regulation, but Williams was called for a charge with 4.2 seconds left. Then Pippen missed a 3-pointer with a second to go.

"(The Grizzlies) made it tough for us," Bisaccio said. "That just speaks volumes to this team. Their willingness to fight through the adversity showed real grit, toughness and of course that competitive will."

Brooklyn Nets forward Jalen Wilson was named the Summer League MVP earlier in the day. He averaged 21.8 points and 4.6 rebounds, making 47.3% of his field goals and 55% of 3-pointers.

The Summer League first team included Jackson and Pippen of the Grizzlies, Ware of the Heat, Jordan Miller of the Los Angeles Clippers and Reed Sheppard of the Houston Rockets. Though he was named event MVP, Wilson was chosen second team along with Bub Carrington of the Washington Wizards, Donovan Clingan of the Portland Trail Blazers, Jaime Jaquez Jr. of the Heat and Jarace Walker of the Indiana Pacers.

Mobley, Cavs agree on 5-year, $224M rookie contract extension

CLEVELAND (AP)—Cavaliers forward Evan Mobley has agreed to a five-year, $224 million contract extension with Cleveland, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Saturday night.

Mobley has blossomed into one of the NBA's brightest young stars since being drafted with the No. 3 overall pick in 2021.

The 23-year-old's new deal could be worth up to $269 million if he reaches incentives, said the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because terms have not been finalized.

Mobley's agents, Joe Smith and Thad Foucher, first told ESPN about the extension. The sides have been talking about a deal for weeks.

Mobley's agreement is the latest positive development this summer for the Cavs, who after hiring Kenny Atkinson as coach signed All-Star guard Donovan Mitchell to a three-year, $150.3 million extension.

Mitchell and Mobley are the main pieces in a Cleveland core that helped the Cavs win 99 games the past two seasons. They made it to the second round of the playoffs this season before being eliminated by the eventual champion Boston Celtics in five games.

Mobley has averaged 15.6 points, 8.8 rebounds and 2.8 assists in his first three seasons as a pro. The former Southern California standout is already one of the league's premiere defensive players, and the Cavs are hoping he'll further develop his offensive game.

At his introductory news conference, Atkinson said one of his priorities is making Mobley a more complete threat on offense.

"We can schematically get the ball in his hands more," Atkinson said.

Mobley was limited to just 50 regular-season game last season after undergoing arthroscopic knee surgery in December. With Mitchell and center Jarrett Allen dealing with injuries, Mobley stepped it up in the postseason, averaging 21.4 points against the Celtics.

Mobley scored a playoff-best 33 points in Cleveland's last game.

Yankees hit five home runs to rout the Rays

NEW YORK (AP)—Juan Soto hit two of the Yankees' five home runs and New York salvaged a four-game series split with a 9-1 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays on Monday.

Soto had his fourth multi-homer game this season since coming over in a December trade and 21st of his career. He hit a solo homer into the third deck in right field in the seventh inning and added a three-run homer in the eighth and now has 25 on the season.

Soto went 11 for 18 in the series, including a four-hit game on Friday.

DJ LeMahieu, Austin Wells and Anthony Volpe also homered as the Yankees tied a season high by hitting five homers for the second time this season.

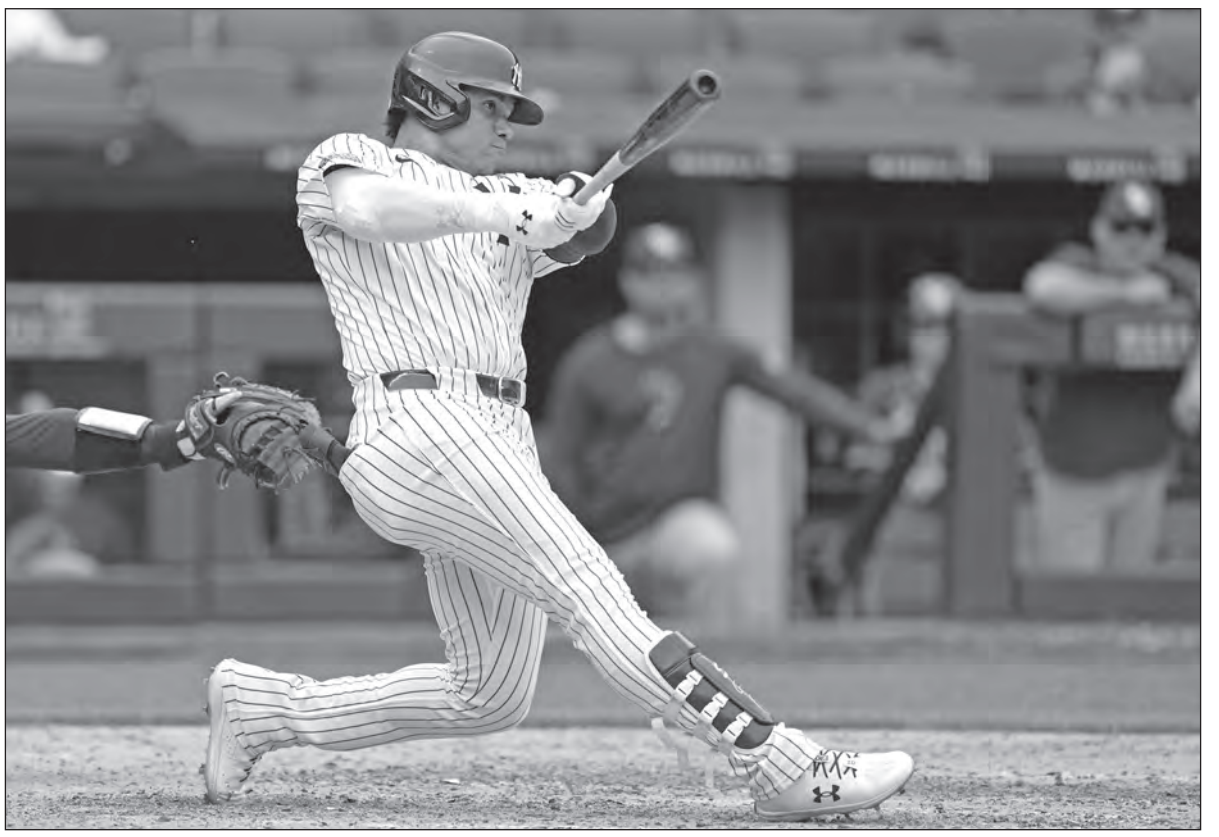
Carlos Rodón (10-7) earned his first win since June 10. He allowed one run and two hits and struck out 10 in seven innings.

LeMahieu ended an 0-for-18 slide with his first homer in 10 months. He entered with a .177 average and the two-time batting champion hit his first homer since Sept. 5 after being given Sunday off.

Rodón entered 0-5 with a 9.37 ERA in his previous six starts since his previous victory June 10 at Kansas City, but was in complete command from the outset. He allowed two hits and matched his longest outing of the season by going seven innings for the third time.

The left-hander had his 25th career double-digit strikeout game and first since Sept. 17. He averaged 95.5 mph on his 55 fastballs, threw 20 sliders, 16 curveballs and 10 changeups.

Rodón did not allow a hit until Jose Siri homered in the fifth inning. Siri also homered in the Rays' 6-4 victory on Sunday.



AP

New York Yankees' Juan Soto follows through on a three-run homer during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays at Yankee Stadium Monday, July 22, 2024, in New York.

TIGERS 8, GUARDIANS 2

CLEVELAND (AP)—Tarik Skubal pitched seven innings while continuing to be mentioned in trade rumors and Justyn-Henry Malloy hit a two-run homer, leading Detroit to a win over Cleveland.

Skubal (11-3) gave up a season-high 10 hits, but just one run as the All-Star worked out of several jams. The left-hander has been linked to potential trades with several contenders as the July 30 trade deadline nears.

Malloy homered in the first inning off Carlos Carrasco (3-8) as the Tigers beat the AL-Central leaders for the fourth time in five games.

Cleveland has dropped three straight and is just 2-7 since July 10. The teams play five more times in the next eight days.

PIRATES 2, CARDINALS 1

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Nick Gonzales hit a go-ahead RBI single in the eighth inning after Mitch Keller allowed one run in the first seven, and Pittsburgh defeated St. Louis.

Bryan Reynolds led off the eighth with a single to left before advancing to second on a wild pitch. With one out, Gonzales sneaked a slow dribbler off John King (3-2) through the right side of the infield.

Gonzales hit a late-inning, go-ahead single for the second time in four games. He did it in the ninth inning against Philadelphia on Friday, giving the Pirates an 8-7 win.

Keller gave up six hits in seven innings, striking out three and walking two, before Aroldis Chapman (2-4) pitched a perfect eighth. David Bednar allowed a two-out single to Paul Goldschmidt in the ninth before striking out Nolan Gorman for his 18th save.

REDS 4, BRAVES 0

ATLANTA (AP)—Hunter Greene allowed only two hits in seven scoreless innings, Will Benson homered and Cincinnati took advantage of their speed to beat Reynaldo López and Atlanta.

Greene (7-4), making his first start since taking the loss in the All-Star Game, had seven strikeouts. The right-hander has allowed a combined two runs in his last four starts.

Marcell Ozuna had two hits for Atlanta, including a ninth-inning single off Alexis Díaz. Ozuna scored on Eddie Rosario's sacrifice fly. Díaz walked Adam Duvall and Sean Murphy before ending the game on Orlando Arcia's fly ball to left field.

METS 6, MARLINS 4

MIAMI (AP)—Francisco Lindor homered twice, Jeff McNeil also went deep and the New York Mets beat Miami.

McNeil had three RBIs for the Mets, who split the four-game series against the National League's worst team. New York (51-48) is 5-5 versus Miami (35-65) this season.

Mets starter David Peterson (5-0) permitted two runs and six hits in five innings. The left-hander walked four and struck out four.

José Buttó relieved Peterson and allowed one run over two innings. Phil Maton worked a perfect eighth, aided by a diving catch from center fielder Harrison Bader.

CUBS 3, BREWERS 1

CHICAGO (AP)—Ian Happ lined a solo homer, six Chicago pitchers cobbled together a five-hitter and the Cubs beat Milwaukee.

Michael Busch and Dansby Swanson each had two hits as the Cubs twice escaped based-loaded jams to end NL Central-leading Milwaukee's three-game winning streak.

Willy Adames' team-leading 16th home run got the Brewers on the board in the eighth.

Garrett Mitchell had two hits, and William Contreras and Joey Ortiz doubled for the Brewers, who failed to cash in on six walks from Chicago starter Javier Assad. He gave up just one hit but only lasted 3 1/3 innings in his second outing since returning from a right forearm strain.

RANGERS 4, WHITE SOX 3, 10 INNINGS

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Texas rookie Wyatt Langford hit a game-ending RBI single in the 10th inning, after scoring the tying run in the ninth, as the Rangers rallied to beat the Chicago White Sox.

Leody Taveras, who had earlier homered, opened the Texas 10th with a sacrifice bunt that moved pinch-runner Travis Jankowski to third.

After a strikeout by Marcus Semien, who had also homered, Steven Wilson (1-6) intentionally walked Corey Seager and Josh Smith to load the bases before Langford's drive ricocheted off the wall in left.

The White Sox (27-75), who have lost eight in a row and 14 of 17, had gone ahead on Paul DeJong's solo homer in the ninth inning before their bullpen's MLB-high 25th blown save.

ROYALS 10, DIAMONDBACKS 4

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Bobby Witt Jr. fell a single short of the cycle, Salvador Perez and Hunter Renfroe also homered, and Kansas City beat the Arizona for their fourth straight victory.

Witt tripled in the first inning, doubled in the third and drilled a three-run homer to deep left-center in the fourth to get the hard part out of the way.

The crowd arose chanting "Bobby! Bobby!" when Witt came to the plate in the sixth in anticipation of a single and the first cycle by a Kansas City player in 34 years, but Arizona reliever Humberto Castellanos hit Witt with his first pitch, drawing loud boos.

TWINS 7, PHILLIES 2

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Minnesota starter Bailey Ober rebounded from Bryce Harper's two-run homer for Philadelphia in the first to settle in for seven innings, and the Twins beat the Phillies.

Ober (9-5) threw only 83 pitches and retired 17 of his last 18 batters, getting a double-play grounder to erase the lone baserunner in that stretch. The 6-foot-9 right-hander gave up four hits and one walk and improved to 4-1 with a 2.23 ERA in his last six starts.

Cole Sands finished with two scoreless innings for the Twins, who held the Phillies to one hit in their last 27 at-bats.

ATHLETICS 4, ASTROS 0

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Hogan Harris and three relievers combined on an eight-hit shutout, and Oakland beat Houston Astros.

Harris (2-3) allowed seven hits in 6 2/3 innings and matched his career-high of seven strikeouts. The win was Harris' first since June 18.

The game took 2 hours, 7 minute and was played in front of an announced crowd of 4,517

JJ Bleday had three hits while Lawrence Butler and Max Schuemann added two hits each to pace the A's to their second win in eight games against the Astros.

ROCKIES 9, RED SOX 8, 12 INNINGS

DENVER (AP)—Ezequiel Tovar singled home the winning run with the bases loaded and two outs in the 12th inning Monday night to give Colorado a victory over Boston, handing the Red Sox their fourth straight defeat since the All-Star break.

Jake Cave singled to drive in Brendan Rodgers with the tying run with no outs in the 12th off rookie Bailey Horn (0-1), who was making his fifth major league appearance.

Jacob Stallings was intentionally walked to bring up Sam Hilliard, who sacrificed the runners up a base. After Aaron Schunk was intentionally walked, Horn struck out Charlie Blackmon before being replaced by Chase Anderson.

Tovar had three hits to extend his hitting streak to nine games. Blackmon had two hits, including his seventh homer, and the last-place Rockies won for the fourth time in five games.

ANGELS 3, MARINERS 1

SEATTLE (AP)—Jo Adell drove in the go-ahead run with a two-out single in the ninth inning, and the Los Angeles Angels beat Seattle.

Adell's base hit to center against reliever Trent Thornton (3-2) scored Brandon Drury. Center fielder Victor Robles' throw to the plate went wide and ricocheted away from catcher Cal Raleigh for an error, allowing Zach Neto to score from first base to make it a two-run game.

Mariners starter Bryce Miller worked seven scoreless innings, allowing three hits, but the Angels tied the game in the eighth on Taylor Ward's sacrifice fly.

Cal Raleigh hit an RBI single in the first for Seattle against lefty Tyler Anderson, who was nearly untouchable after that, retiring the next 15 batters. He gave up three hits over 5 2/3 innings, walking one and striking out eight.

Angels relievers combined to allow one hit over the final 3 1/3 innings. Luis García (5-1) worked the eighth, while Carlos Estévez pitched the ninth for his 19th save.

DODGERS 3, GIANTS 2

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Teoscar Hernández had three hits and three RBIs, including a go-ahead single in the eighth inning, and the Los Angeles Dodgers extended their winning streak to four games by beating the San Francisco.

Tyler Fitzgerald became the first Giants player to homer in four straight games since Brandon Belt did it twice in 2018. Fitzgerald connected on an elevated sinker from Ryan Yarbrough to tie it 2-all in the seventh.

River Ryan allowed one unearned run over 5 1/3 innings in his major league debut for the Dodgers. The 23-year-old right-hander, acquired from San Diego in a 2022 trade, gave up four hits with three walks and two strikeouts.

Hernández lined a base hit up the middle with two outs in the eighth to drive in Kiké Hernández, who got aboard with a leadoff double against Erik Miller (3-3).

Blake Treinen (4-2) pitched a scoreless eighth and Daniel Hudson earned his seventh save.

McDonald's sponsors Team Marianas' lunch in Guam

Team Marianas brought home several medals in the 2024 Micronesian Games held at Marshall Islands from June 15 to 24, 2024.

In a gesture of support and community engagement, McDonald's welcomed members of Team Marianas to enjoy a complimentary meal as they won 122 medals (70 gold, 23 silver, and 29 bronze) at the said competition.

McDonald's hosted a special lunch for Team Marianas, sponsoring the athletes' meal at one of the stores in McDonald's Tamuning, Guam. McDonald's takes pleasure in supporting the athletes who competed in eight sports—athletics, basketball, beach volleyball, fast-pitch softball, swimming, tennis, weightlifting, and wrestling.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Marianas poses at McDonald's Tamuning, Guam after the fastfood restaurant treated them following their success in the 2024 Micronesian Games held at Marshall Islands from June 15 to 24, 2024.

Team Marianas, comprising talented athletes in a variety of sports, expressed gratitude for the sponsorship, highlighting the importance of such support in their journey to represent the island in such games. The NMI community as a whole has supported Team Marianas from the beginning of the competitions in the Marshall Islands, and Team Marianas and the Northern Marianas Sports Association Board expressed their gratitude to everyone who helped and supported the NMI officials and athletes' participation in the Micro Games.

The partnership between McDonald's and Team Marianas underscores a commitment to fostering local talent and promoting healthy lifestyles through sports. It also highlights the role of corporate sponsors in bolstering community initiatives and supporting youth development in athletics.

McDonald's of Guam & Saipan, locally owned and operated by Jose and Marcia Ayuyu, and their son, Joe E. Ayuyu Jr., is the leading food service restaurant chain in the Mariana Islands. McDonald's of Guam and Saipan have served the local communities for over 50 years on Guam and 30 years on Saipan and remains one of the islands' largest employers. ***(PR)***

PITCHER

From page 16

Jeffrey Lizama is at 23; Villagomez has 22; R.J. Riungel has 19; and Gloyd Martin Jr. has 18.

In slugging, Nakamura is the lead batter with the highest batting average of .650 from 13 hits out of 20 plate appearances.

The Blue Jays' Frankie Lieto is second at .611 from 11 hits out of 18, and third is the Bears' Jeremy Lizama at .556 from 10 out of 18 at-bats.

Nakamura also leads the RBIs category with 12. Second with 11 is Nokki Saralu; Brian Camacho, Giovanni Mira, and Patrick Tenorio have nine each; and Byron Kaipat, Eli Aughenbaugh, Poland Masaharu, Tony Tenorio, and Franco Nakamura have eight each.

For the most runs scored, Masaharu leads with 19. Jerald Cabrera and Saralu have 17 each; Lamarc Iguel has 16; Auriel Mendiola has 15; and Franco has 14.

Masaharu also leads the triples category with two. Meanwhile, Alfred Manglona, Ben Lizama, Derrence Diaz, Aughenbaugh, Jonah Flores, Cabrera, Kaipo Dikito, Niko Martin, Saralu, Pat Tenorio Jr., Tonchu Norita, Travis Malwebug, Frankie Lifoifoi, Jeremy, Henry Aguon, and Larsen Sibetang have one each.

As for doubles, Brian Camacho has six; Harry Nakamura, J.P Sablan, and Ton Salas have three each; and 10 other players are tied with one.

For home runs, only Ben Flores, Dennis Cabrera, Aughenbaugh, Jesus Iguel, and Tony Tenorio have hit one each.

In the team standings, the Falcons lead with an 8-1 record; the Cardinals are next at 7-2; Bandits and Padres are at 6-2; Sandlots has a 6-3 record; Braves is at 5-3; Blue Jays is right above .500 at 5-4; Royals are at an even 4-4; Bears have a 4-5 record; D-9er's and White Sox are at 2-6; the Natives have yet to win at eight losses; and Blue Shark have lost all their games so far at nine losses.

CRUZ

From page 16

support of his motocross hobby. He also extended his kudos to Inas Kitchen, YCO True Value, 670 Rocksteady, TurnKey solutions, Ericco Racing Team, Rep. Joseph (Ind-Saipan) for the tent donation, Marianas Racing Association, and IT&E.

MRA president Ellery Cruz, meanwhile, thanked MRA members and their families for continuing to show up and show out in every weather condition at the Cowtown Race Park.

"Sunday's race saw rainy and muddy conditions for Heat 1 and then the sun came out enough to help get the track dry enough to give a perfect tacky condition for great racing in the second heat. We also want to thank the fans that came out to cheer us on, you guys are awesome. MRA would also like to thank IT&E and Monster Energy for sponsoring our event."

He added that the 2024 season is coming to a near close with two races left scheduled to take place on Aug. 4 and 25.

"We invite the entire public to come out and watch our riders battle it out to garner their final points and see who comes out victorious for the 2024 points race season," he said.

Results of the other classes will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the Race for a Cause 4th Annual Bike Race pose for a group photo last Sunday in Marpi.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Medalists pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony of the Race for a Cause 4th Annual Bike Race last Sunday in Marpi.

MTB

From page 16

area. The easiest is when the rain kept pouring because I didn't feel the heat much and tiredness."

The 38-year-old dedicated the win to herself, family, and friends.

In the Road Bike Short Course, Zhoefet Cellona came in first in the teen category at 26:07.

Jomari Buco was first in the below 40 age group at 22:08; Romnick Soriano was second at 24:37; and Xu Nin was third at 33:38.

Arnold Sangoyo clocked in at 24:44 in the 44-49 age group; Erwin Calage was first in the 50-54 age group, while Manny Basa was second just a second after at 21:52.

In the 60+ age group, Edgar Abalos crossed the finish line first at 20:52; Ruel Nava was second at 25:10; and third was Joey Ejercito at 30:32.

In the MTB Short Course, Raven Pascual was first in the teen category at 23:51; second was his brother Rafael Pascual at 24:01; and third was Keoni Ruszala with a time of 29:06.

John Carlo Asedillo was first in the below 40 age group at 25:06, and second was Jude Tengco at 27:39.

Marvin Asedillo clocked in at 23:50 in the 40-44 age group; and Renato Barros had a time of 26:08 in the 50-54 age group.

In the 55-59 category, Rico Manungay was first at 25:41; John Jugo was second at 26:53; and Alexander Racoma clocked in at 26:56 for third place.

Angeles Alvarez clocked in at 21:54 in the 60+ age group, and Monique Mascarinas was first in the women's division at 32:03.

The event was organized by Saipan Unity Lions Club and headed by Willy Barbo. The race is also in celebration of his birthday. He said of this year's event, "It was very overwhelming and despite the rain, they still did well and were very energetic. There were also a lot of youth that joined the race."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

SBL STANDINGS

	W	L		
Falcons	8	1		
Cardinals	7	2		
Bandits	6	2		
Padres	6	2		
Sandlot	6	3		
Braves	5	3		
Blue Jays	5	4		
Royals	4	4		
Bears	4	5		
D-9er's	2	6		
White Sox	2	6		
Natives	0	8		
Blue Shark	0	9		

BATTING LEADER

Harry Nakamura	.650
Frankie Lieto	.611
Jeremy Lizama	.556
Darion Jones	.550
Lamarc Iguel	.526
Nokki Saralu	.520
Franco Nakamura	.519
Derek Sasamoto	.440
Dennis Cabrera	.423
Tim DLguerrero	.421

Runs scored: (19) Poland Masaharu (17) Jerald Cabrera, Nokki Saralu (16) Lamarc Iguel (15) Auriel Mendiola (14) Franco Nalamura.

Doubles: (6) Brian Camacho (3) Harry Nakamura, J.P Sablan, Ton Salas (2) 10-players tied/

Triples: (2) Poland Masaharu (1) Alfred Manglona, Ben Lizama, Derrence Diaz, Eli Aughenbaugh, Flores Jonah, Jerald Cabrera, Kaipo Dikito, Niko Martin, Nokki Saralu, Pat Tenorio Jr., Tonchu Norita, Travis Malwebug, Frankie Lifoifoi, Jeremy Lizama, Henry Aguon, Larsen Sibetang.

Homeruns: (1) Ben Flores, Dennis Cabrera, Eli Aughenbaugh, Jesus Iguel, Tony Tenorio.

RBIs: (12) Harry Nakamura (11) Nokki Saralu (9) Brian Camacho, Giovanni Mira, Patrick Tenorio (8) Byron Kaipat, Eli Aughenbaugh, Poland Masaharu, Tony Tenorio, Franco Nakamura.

PITCHING LEADERS

K.J Villagomez	0.00
Benji Palacios	0.53
Jason Reyes	0.77
Jose Lizama Jr.	1.29
Jylon Sablan	1.45
Ricky Joe Riungel	1.46
Mike Iguel	1.66
Aaron Camacho	1.94
Joe Kapileo	2.31
Joe Atalig	2.48

Strikeouts: (36) Benji Palacios (33) Jose Lizama Jr. (25) Jason Reyes (24) Aaron Camacho, Jylon Sablan (23) Jeffrey Lizama (22) K.J Villagomez (19) R.J Riungel (18) Gloyd Martin Jr.

LeBron selected as Team USA male flagbearer for opening ceremony

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Sports

McDonald's sponsors Team Marianas' lunch in Guam

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NEXT LEVEL MEDIA CNMI
File photo shows Cardinals pitcher K.J. Villagomez in action during one of their games in the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Pitcher Villagomez still atop stats race

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

As of July 19, Cardinals pitcher K.J. Villagomez is still atop the pitching rankings, while in the batters' box, Harry Nakamura found himself back in first place in the 2024 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League.

Villagomez sports the only 0.00 ERA and 0 earned runs among all pitchers. He has a 3-0 record in three games and 16 innings pitched, with just nine hits against him.

Second is the Blue Jays' Beji Palacios with a 0.53 ERA, two ER, seven games pitched in 26.2 innings, gave up 14 hits, and also has a 3-0 record. Third is the Royals' Jason Reyes at 0.77 ERA, one ER, four games and 18.1 innings pitched, 12 hits against him, and a 1-2 record.

Still on the bump, Palacios has registered the most strikeouts so far with 36. The Bandits' Jose Lizama Jr. is right behind at 33; Reyes has 25; Aaron Camacho and Jylon Sablan have 24 each;

See PITCHER on Page 15

Cristobal, Romero top MTB Long Course

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Hernan Cristobal, center, accepts his first-place medal and winnings after topping the MTB Long Course of the Race for a Cause 4th Annual Bike Race last Sunday at Marpi.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Hernan Cristobal and Kris Romero both topped their divisions in the MTB Long Course of the Race for a Cause 4th Annual Bike Race last Sunday in Marpi.

The course ran from the former Mariana Resort & Spa to Banzai Cliff, La Fiesta, Bird Island, Suicide Cliff, and back.

Cristobal clocked in at 57:32, while Bryan Ytac was second at 1:00:15. Third was Rio Jacob at 1:01:32. Meanwhile, in the women's division, Romero clocked in at 1:28:15.

In the age groups, Gerald Camps was first in the below 40 category at 1:02:40. In the 40-44 age group, Fred Remilloza clocked in at 1:05:38; Raymund Tolentino was first in the 50-54 age group at 1:04:00; and Diony Valdisimo is first in the 55-59 age group at 1:13:05.

For 48-year-old Cristobal, he said that the course was hard, especially at the Suicide Cliff area. He said that it was raining so hard and very windy. Despite that, he pushed through and came in first overall.

As for Romero, she said, "The course was good. Despite of the rainy weather, for me it was perfect." The hardest part, she said, "is going to Suicide Cliff because I only rode a few times in that

See MTB on Page 15

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Kris Romero accepts her first-place medal and winnings after topping the women's MTB Long Course of the Race for a Cause 4th Annual Bike Race last Sunday at Marpi.

Cruz, Guerrero repeat in Intermediate, Novice classes

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS/
Aric Cruz, left, and Matthew Guerrero in action in the Intermediate and Novice classes, respectively, of last Sunday's 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series at the Cowtown Race Park in Marpi.

Aric Cruz and Matthew Guerrero repeated as champions of their respective divisions in last Sunday's 2024 "MOTO IV" Points Race Series at the Cowtown Race Park in Marpi.

Cruz, a 17-year-old incoming senior at Saipan Southern High School, continued his sweep of the Intermediate Class by totaling another perfect 50 points. Vicente "Beng" Palacios and Charles Cepeda came second and third with 44 points and 40 points, respectively.

"The course was very slippery the first heat, but it was perfect during the second heat. The weather was rainy for the most part but it cleared up eventually," said Cruz.

He then dedicated his win to his family and friends, "because they have been putting in their support toward me." He also thanked all his sponsors, namely Inas Kitchen, YCO True Value, 670 Rocksteady, TurnKey Solutions, Ericco Racing Team, and Rep. Joseph Flores (Ind-Saipan) for the tent donation.

"I would also like to thank my personal sponsors Marpac, Marianas Native, ChokeChain Athletics, Winners Hardware, and Pacific line Construction," he said.

Guerrero, meanwhile, followed up his first win in the Novice Class by winning both heats for a perfect 50 points. Christian Camacho was second with his 44 points, while Ponce Rasa was third with 40 points.

"I feel like after all that practice and hard work paid off for last Sunday's race. The course was really muddy and slippery in the first heat and hard to see if someone was in front of you but the second heat was better and pretty tacky and I was able to get more traction than the first. The weather was very cloudy and rainy," said Guerrero.

The 14-year-old Mt. Carmel School student then thanked his coach Ellery Cruz, his parents, and family for their

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